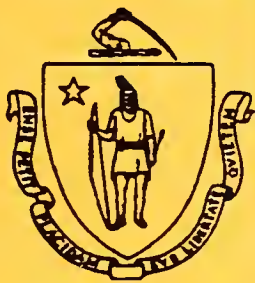


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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



**Department
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Dropout Rates in Massachusetts Public Schools: 1991

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Dropout Rates in Massachusetts Public Schools: 1991

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Publication #17289, February 1993

***Dropout Rates
in Massachusetts
Public Schools: 1991***

February 1993

**Developed by:
Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation
Massachusetts Department of Education**

Dropout Rates in Massachusetts Public Schools: 1991

Table of Contents

	Summary of Key Findings	i
Section I	Introduction	1
Section II	Analysis of Dropout Rates	3
Section III	National Data	17
Section IV	Technical Information	19
Section V	Annual and Projected Four-Year Dropout Rates by School District	23
Appendix A	List of School Districts by Kind of Community	38
Appendix B	List of School Districts by Service Delivery Area	39
Appendix C	1990 Status Dropout Rates by Community	40

Dropout Rates in Massachusetts Public Schools: 1991

Summary of Key Findings

- **Annual Dropout Rate** A total of 9,269 students enrolled in grades nine through twelve dropped out of school in the one-year period between July 1, 1990, and June 30, 1991. This represents an annual dropout rate of 4.0 percent.
- **Projected Four-Year Dropout Rate** A projected 15 percent of the students in the Class of 1994 may drop out before graduating, based on the percentage of students who dropped out in the 1990-91 reporting year.
- **Decline in Rates Over Time** The annual dropout rate has declined from 5.4 percent in 1988 and from 4.6 percent in 1990. The projected four-year dropout rate has decreased from 20 percent for the Class of 1991 and from 17 percent for the Class of 1993.
- **Distribution of Rates for Individual Schools** The annual dropout rate for 308 schools ranged from zero percent to 21.3 percent. Ninety-four schools had dropout rates of one percent or less. Twenty-one schools had dropout rates in excess of 10 percent. Of these, 20 were urban schools, accounting for 33.2 percent of the state's dropouts while comprising only 9.6 percent of the state's grade nine through twelve enrollment.
- **Grade** Since 1987, the highest percentage of students dropped out of grades ten and eleven. In 1991 the rates were 4.7 percent and 4.5 percent, respectively. Ninth-graders dropped out at a 3.5 percent rate, and twelfth-graders dropped out at a 3.3 percent rate. Since 1987 ninth-graders have shown the most improvement with a decline of 1.5 percentage points.
- **Gender** The annual dropout rate of 4.4 percent for males was higher than the rate of 3.5 percent for females. While the rates for both genders have declined since 1987, the gender gap has persisted over time.
- **Race/Ethnicity** Dropout rates varied widely by race/ethnicity, largely a function of socioeconomic conditions. The annual rate for Hispanic students, the highest at 11.1 percent, was nearly three times as high as the rate for white students at 3.0 percent. African-American students had the second highest rate at 8.1 percent, and Asian students dropped out at a rate of 3.9 percent. The rates have declined since 1987 for all racial/ethnic groups, with Hispanic students having the largest decrease, 4.1 percentage points.
- **Kind of Community** The dropout rate for urban centers at 6.9 percent was more than twice as high as the second highest rate of 2.9 percent for rural economic centers and nearly ten times as high as the lowest rate of 0.7 percent for residential suburbs. Growth communities had a dropout rate of 2.7 percent, followed by small economic communities at 2.0 percent, resort/retirement/artistic communities at 1.9 percent and economically developed suburbs at 1.6 percent. Rates for all community types have declined since 1987, with urban centers having the largest decrease, 2.0 percentage points.

Dropout Rates in Massachusetts Public Schools: 1991

- **Vocational-Technical Schools** The annual dropout rate for students enrolled in vocational-technical schools was 4.2 percent, close to the statewide rate of 4.0 percent. The annual dropout rate of 8.8 percent for city/town vocational-technical schools was over two-and-a-half times as high as the rate of 3.3 percent for regional, independent and county vocational-technical schools.
- **Dropout Prevention Grants** Schools targeted by dropout prevention grants showed an improvement in their dropout rates. The annual dropout rate statewide for schools targeted by grants was 7.8 percent, down from 8.8 percent in 1988. The rate for urban schools targeted by grants declined from 9.4 percent in 1988 to 8.4 percent in 1991.
- **Students with Special Needs** The annual dropout rate for students with special needs was 8.4 percent, up slightly from 8.2 percent in 1990.

Introduction

The vitality of our democracy and the strength of our economy demand an educated and skilled citizenry. The public good is served when our youth become responsible and productive members of society. Schools must enable youth to participate in and contribute to the political, economic and social life of our nation. As such, dropping out of school has extremely high economic and social costs, both to the individual and to the country as a whole.

School dropouts face difficulty in entering the workforce, especially in Massachusetts with its service- and technology-oriented economy. This is very acute in today's tight job market. Dropouts suffer from reduced earning power, lower income and higher rates of unemployment. In 1991 nationally, 23.1 percent of dropouts were unemployed compared to 9.4 percent of high school graduates.¹ Dropouts are more likely to find themselves in prison. Eighty-two percent of the nation's prisoners are high school dropouts.² Dropouts also have lower rates of political participation, which leads to disenfranchisement.

The costs of school dropouts to society are high. The labor market loses skilled and educated workers. Spending on health and social services such as welfare rise while tax revenues are lost. Crime rates are higher. Society becomes less inclusive as many people are left out.

Dropping out of school is strongly associated with poverty. Given that childhood poverty is on the rise, the need to address the dropout problem is especially imperative. According to the Tufts University Center on Hunger, Poverty and Nutrition Policy, if current trends continue, the childhood poverty rate will increase from 21.8 percent to 28.5 percent in the next two decades. At the same time, those in poverty are more likely to be racial or linguistic minorities. Given that the proportion of racial and linguistic minorities is also on the rise in Massachusetts, we are in danger of leaving behind a substantial number of people of color who are economically disadvantaged. Considering that one of the strengths of this nation lies in its diversity, our schools must succeed in meeting the needs of all students to ensure their inclusion in our society.

Schools *can* make a difference. Students who drop out of school cite school-related factors more than any other in their decision to drop out.³ There are, however, individual schools with high percentages of disadvantaged students that are succeeding in engaging and graduating their students. Dropout prevention programs based on systemic change are showing positive results. Many innovative approaches to education, such as the Coalition of Essential Schools and the Accelerated Schools network, provide models for successfully serving at-risk students.

Dropout Rates in Massachusetts Public Schools: 1991

Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to assess the holding power of schools. Effective dropout prevention requires accurate information about the extent and nature of the dropout problem. The Department of Education, under the authority of Chapter 188, the Massachusetts Public School Improvement Act of 1985, conducts an annual survey of the state's public schools to determine the number of students who drop out. This report summarizes and analyzes information about students who dropped out during the 1990-91 reporting year.⁴

This report does not recommend strategies for addressing the dropout problem. Dropout prevention is addressed in the Department of Education's report entitled *Changing Schools and Communities: A Systemic Approach to Dropout Prevention*. The latter examines the causes of dropping out and provides suggestions for fundamental changes in school governance and organization, policy and practice that are deemed necessary to both engage students in learning and address the underlying causes of dropping out of school.

It is hoped that this analysis will contribute to efforts to continue to develop and strengthen successful dropout prevention programs. Such efforts must be based on detailed data about the nature and extent of the dropout problem. The Department of Education welcomes suggestions that would enhance the analysis of dropout information and contribute to its usefulness.

Definition of a Dropout

In this report, dropouts in Massachusetts are defined as students age 16 or older who leave school prior to graduation for reasons other than transfer to another school. This definition includes as dropouts students who drop out and later return to school and those who drop out and later receive a General Educational Development (G.E.D). The definition changed in 1992 to conform to a new definition developed by the U.S. Department of Education in order to obtain uniform dropout data from all states. The new definition includes dropouts of all ages and partially accounts for students who drop out and return to school. Please see the sections on Technical Information and on Comparison of National Data for additional information on methodology.

Endnotes

1. National Center for Education Statistics, "Dropout Rates in the United States: 1991," 1992.
2. Hodgkinson, Harold, "A Demographic Look at Tomorrow," Institute for Educational Leadership, 1992.
3. National Center for Education Statistics, "Dropout Rates in the United States: 1991," 1992.
4. The 1990-91 annual reporting cycle went from July 1, 1990, to June 30, 1991.

Analysis of Dropout Rates

Massachusetts public schools lost 9,269 ninth- to twelfth-graders to dropping out during the 1990-91 annual reporting year. These students represented 4.0 percent of the 230,069 ninth- to twelfth-graders who were enrolled in the state's public schools in the Fall of 1990 (Table 1). Hence, the 1991 annual dropout rate for Massachusetts public schools was 4.0 percent.

Based on the annual dropout rate, it is projected that 15 percent of the students who entered ninth grade in the 1990-91 reporting year may not graduate. This statistic, known as the projected four-year dropout rate, represents the cumulative effect of four years of dropping out for the Class of 1994.

Table 1. Dropout Rates: 1991

	<u>Enrollment</u>	<u>Number of Dropouts</u>	<u>Annual Rate</u>	<u>Projected 4-Year Rate*</u>
Total, Grade 9-12	230,069	9,269	4.0%	—
Grade				
Grade 9	60,795	2,125	3.5%	15%
Grade 10	59,151	2,794	4.7%	—
Grade 11	56,639	2,580	4.5%	—
Grade 12	53,484	1,770	3.3%	—
Gender				
Male	117,333	5,257	4.4%	16%
Female	112,736	4,012	3.5%	13%
Race/Ethnic Group				
African-American	17,549	1,435	8.1%	28%
Asian	7,765	303	3.9%	15%
Hispanic	15,627	1,739	11.1%	37%
Native American	402	29	7.2%	28%
White	188,726	5,763	3.0%	12%
Kind of Community				
Urban Centers	97,403	6,747	6.9%	25%
Economically Developed Suburbs	60,204	982	1.6%	6%
Growth Communities	26,546	718	2.7%	10%
Residential Suburbs	20,872	146	0.7%	2%
Rural Economic Centers	19,163	558	2.9%	11%
Small Economic Communities	2,969	62	2.0%	8%
Resort/Retirement/Artistic	2,912	56	1.9%	7%

* percentage of ninth graders (class of 1994) projected to drop out over four-year period

Dropout Rates in Massachusetts Public Schools: 1991

While losing 4.0 percent of students in a single year is cause for concern, this rate has decreased in each year over the past four years, from a rate of 5.4 percent in 1988, when 13,983 of the state's 258,546 ninth- through twelfth-graders dropped out (Figure 1 and Table 2). Similarly, the projected four-year dropout rate has decreased in each year over the past four years, from a rate of 20 percent for the Class of 1991 (Figure 2 and Table 3).

Table 2. Annual Dropout Rates: 1987-1991

	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1991</u>
Total Dropout Rate, Grade 9-12	5.3%	5.4%	4.9%	4.6%	4.0%
Total Number of Dropouts	14,354	13,983	11,855	10,802	9,269
Grade 9-12 Enrollment	268,180	258,546	242,748	235,350	230,069
Grade					
Grade 9	5.0%	5.0%	4.4%	4.0%	3.5%
Grade 10	6.1%	6.5%	5.8%	5.3%	4.7%
Grade 11	5.9%	6.1%	5.7%	5.5%	4.5%
Grade 12	4.1%	3.8%	3.6%	3.5%	3.3%
Gender					
Male	5.8%	6.2%	5.3%	5.2%	4.4%
Female	4.8%	4.6%	4.5%	4.0%	3.5%
Race/Ethnic Group					
African American	10.6%	10.6%	9.2%	9.0%	8.1%
Asian	6.3%	4.8%	4.7%	5.1%	3.9%
Hispanic	15.2%	14.4%	14.1%	12.6%	11.1%
Native American	9.3%	11.8%	7.8%	8.0%	7.2%
White	4.4%	4.5%	4.0%	3.6%	3.0%
Kind of Community					
Urban Centers	NA	8.9%	8.0%	7.7%	6.9%
Economically Developed Suburbs	NA	2.6%	2.3%	2.0%	1.6%
Growth Communities	NA	4.3%	3.9%	3.5%	2.7%
Residential Suburbs	NA	1.4%	1.3%	1.1%	0.7%
Rural Economic Centers	NA	4.4%	3.9%	3.3%	2.9%
Small Economic Communities	NA	3.5%	3.5%	2.9%	2.0%
Resort/Retirement/Artistic	NA	2.9%	2.0%	2.4%	1.9%

The decline in the annual dropout rate is reflected in the change in the dropout rate for individual schools. Between 1988 and 1991, out of the 313 schools in the state having ninth- through twelfth-graders which were in operation for the entire period, 248 schools (79.2 percent) had a decrease in the annual dropout rate. However, 58 schools (18.5 percent) had an increase, and seven schools had no change. While schools with a decrease in the annual dropout rate far outnumber those with an increase, there continues to be a need to address the dropout problem in many schools, especially the sizeable number that have experienced an increase.

Analysis of Dropout Rates

Figure 1. Annual Dropout Rates: 1987-1991

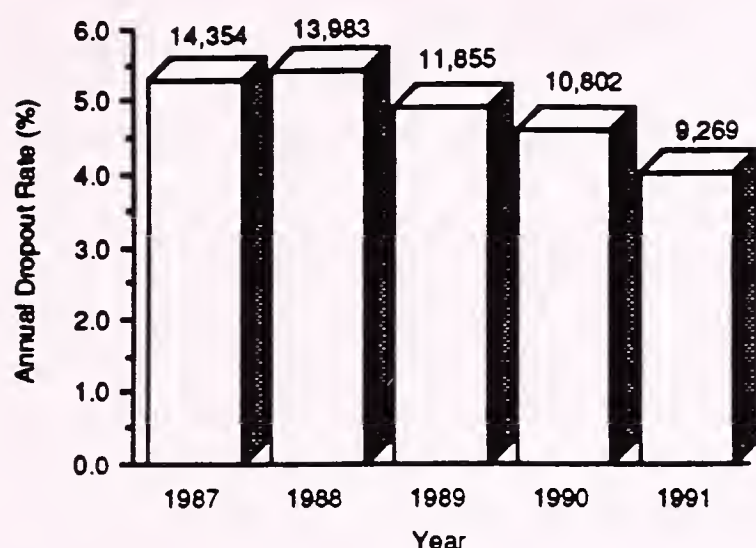


Figure 2. Projected 4-Year Dropout Rates: 1991-1994

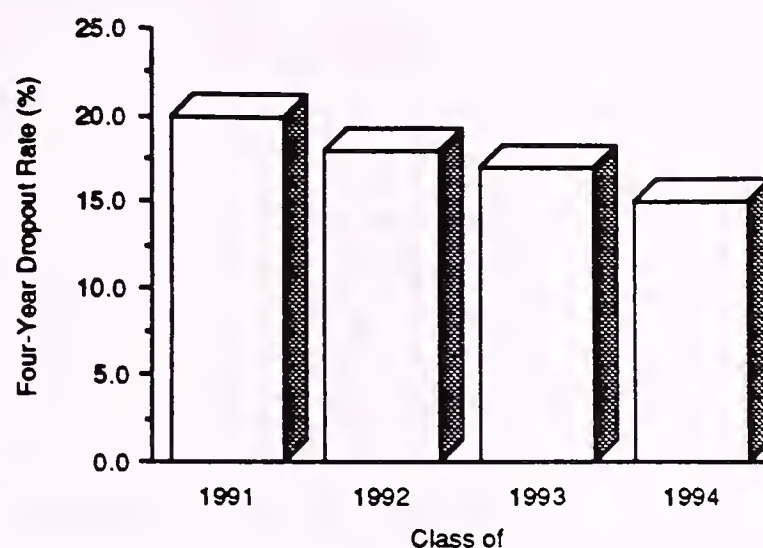


Table 3. Projected Four-Year Dropout Rates: Classes of 1991-1994

	<u>1991</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1994</u>
Total	20%	18%	17%	15%
Gender				
Male	21%	20%	19%	16%
Female	18%	17%	15%	13%
Race/Ethnic Group				
African American	36%	32%	31%	28%
Asian	18%	17%	19%	15%
Hispanic	45%	45%	41%	37%
Native American	40%	29%	28%	28%
White	17%	15%	14%	12%
Kind of Community				
Urban Centers	31%	28%	27%	25%
Economically Developed Suburbs	10%	9%	7%	6%
Growth Communities	16%	15%	13%	10%
Residential Suburbs	5%	5%	4%	2%
Rural Economic Centers	17%	15%	12%	11%
Small Economic Communities	14%	13%	11%	8%
Resort/Retirement/Artistic	11%	8%	9%	7%

The aggregate statewide dropout rate masks the wide disparity in the rate that existed among individual schools and the severe dropout problem that persists in some schools. The distribution in the annual dropout rate ranged from a low of zero percent to a high of 21.3%.¹ Twenty-one schools had a dropout rate of zero percent, and a total of 94 schools had dropout rates of one percent or less. While 57 percent of the state's schools having students in grades nine through twelve had dropout rates of 2.5 percent or less, 7% (21 schools) had dropout rates in excess of 10 percent (Table 4).

Dropout Rates in Massachusetts Public Schools: 1991

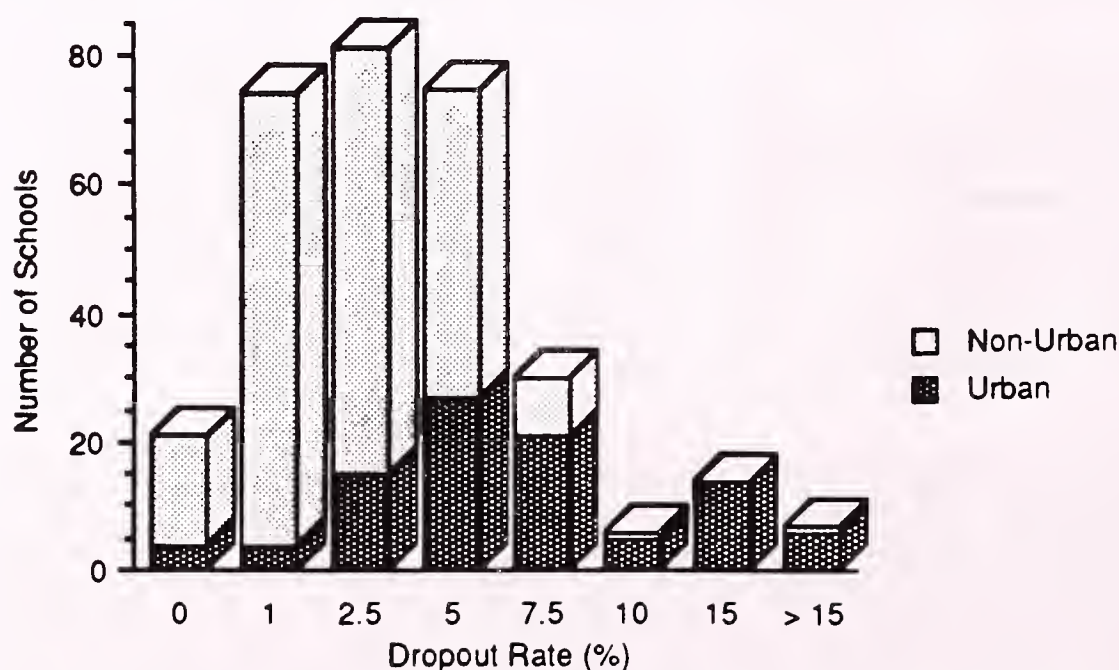
Table 4. Distribution of Annual Dropout Rates: 1991

<u>Annual Rate (%)</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Number of Schools*</u>	
		<u>Urban</u>	<u>Non-Urban</u>
0	21	4	17
0.1 - 1.0	74	4	70
1.1 - 2.5	81	15	66
2.6 - 5.0	75	27	48
5.1 - 7.5	30	21	9
7.6 - 10.0	6	5	1
10.1 - 15.0	14	14	0
15.1 and above	7	6	1

* excludes schools with enrollments less than 75

A more in-depth look at the distribution of dropout rates can be seen in Figure 3, which shows the number of schools reporting dropout rates within particular ranges for the state as a whole and for urban and non-urban schools. The dropout rates for non-urban schools form a fairly normal (bell-shaped) distribution, with the bulk of non-urban schools having dropout rates of five percent or less. On the other hand, the distribution of dropout rates for urban schools is bimodal, resulting in two-bell-shaped curves. In other words, urban schools reporting dropout rates of 10 percent or less form one bell-shaped curve. This part of the distribution is made up of dropout rates which fall within a somewhat higher range of those for non-urban schools. Urban schools with dropout rates in excess of 10 percent form a second bell-shaped curve, made up of dropout rates which fall outside the range of those for non-urban

Figure 3. Distribution of Annual Dropout Rates: 1991



Dropout rate figures on x-axis are the maximum of a range; eg., 1 equals 0.1-1.0, 2.5 equals 1.1-2.5, etc. Excludes schools with enrollments less than 75.

Analysis of Dropout Rates

schools. While there is concern for all schools with dropouts, these 21 schools warrant special attention. They comprise 9.6 percent of the state's grade nine through twelve enrollment, yet account for 33.2 percent of the state's dropouts.

Results for Selected Student Populations

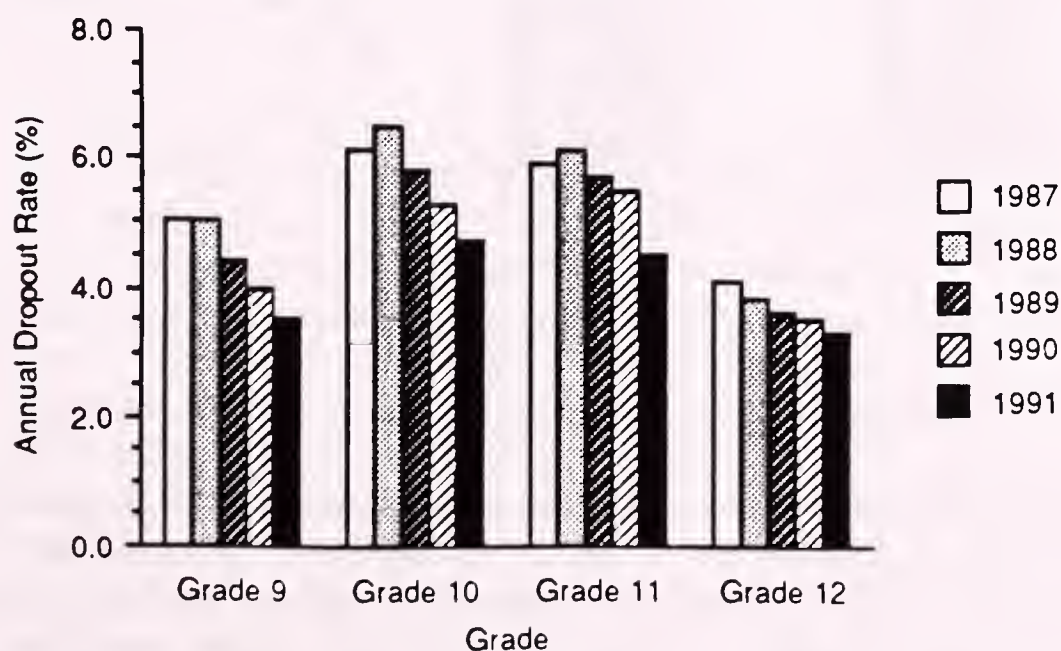
Although the decline in dropout rates is evident for most population subgroups, in any given year dropout rates varied widely among different racial/ethnic groups, for males and females, by grade level, and by community type (Tables 1 and 2). Because the dropout rate for certain groups of students is especially high, schools must undertake self-assessment in order to determine how well they are serving and meeting the needs of all students. Consequently, examining the dropout rate for specific populations of students is necessary in order to appropriately develop and target dropout prevention efforts. The dropout rates for selected populations of students is examined in more detail in the following sections.

Results by Grade

Students in grades ten and eleven dropped out at higher rates than did students in grades nine and twelve. The 1991 dropout rates for tenth- and eleventh-graders were 4.7 percent and 4.5 percent, respectively, while the dropout rates for ninth- and twelfth-graders were 3.5 percent and 3.3 percent, respectively (Table 1). The higher rates correspond to the grades in which students generally turn 16, the age at which compulsory school attendance is no longer required by state law. As would be expected, students who reached the twelfth grade were the least likely to drop out.

The pattern of dropout rates by grade has remained consistent since 1987, with tenth- and eleventh-graders having the highest dropout rates, followed by ninth-graders and

Figure 4. Annual Dropout Rates by Grade: 1987-1991



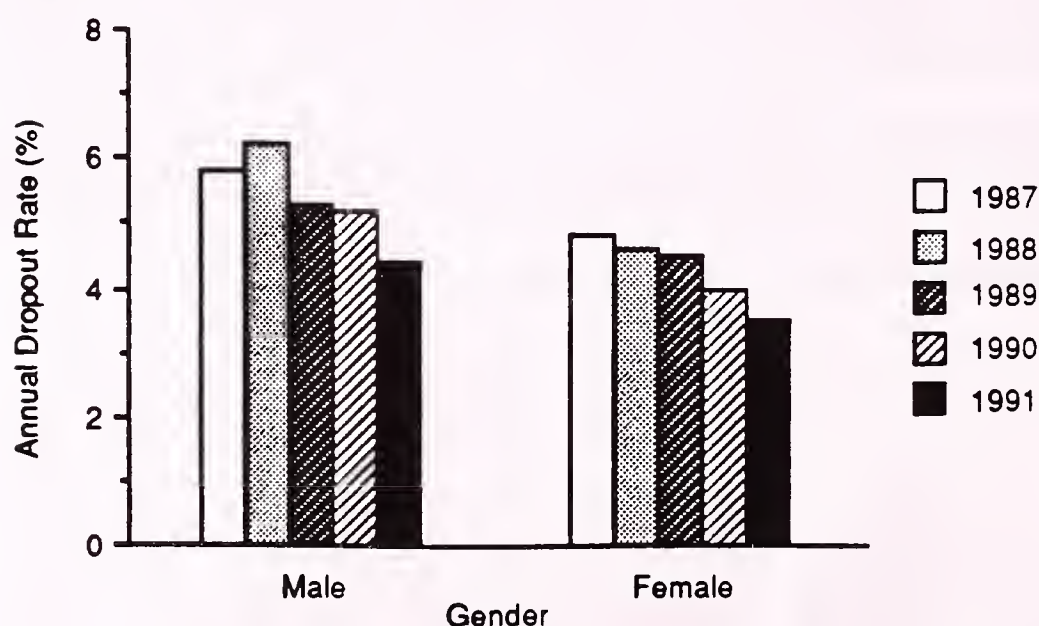
Dropout Rates in Massachusetts Public Schools: 1991

then twelfth-graders (Table 2 and Figure 4). Over the five-year period, the dropout rate decreased for all grades, although the amount and pattern of the decline varied somewhat for each grade. The largest decrease has occurred at the ninth grade level, a decline of 1.5 percentage points, which may be a result of dropout prevention programs initiated at the middle school levels since 1987 under the auspices of Chapter 188 (see below for further discussion of dropout prevention grants).

Results by Gender

The 1991 annual dropout rate was higher for males than for females. A total of 5,257 males dropped out of school, a rate of 4.4 percent, and 4,012 females dropped out, a rate of 3.5 percent (Table 1). While males comprised 51.0 percent of the ninth-through twelfth-grade student population, they accounted for 56.7 percent of the dropouts. In contrast, females comprised 49.0 percent of the enrollment but only 43.3 percent of the dropouts. The annual dropout rate for both males and females has declined since 1987, from 5.8 percent for males and 4.8 percent for females (Table 2 and Figure 5). The projected four-year dropout rate for the Class of 1994 for males was also higher than that for females, being 16 percent for males and 13 percent for females (Table 1). The projected four-year dropout rate for both genders has likewise declined, from 21 percent for males in the Class of 1991 and 18 percent for females in that class (Table 3).

Figure 5. Annual Dropout Rates by Gender: 1987-1991



Results by Race/Ethnicity

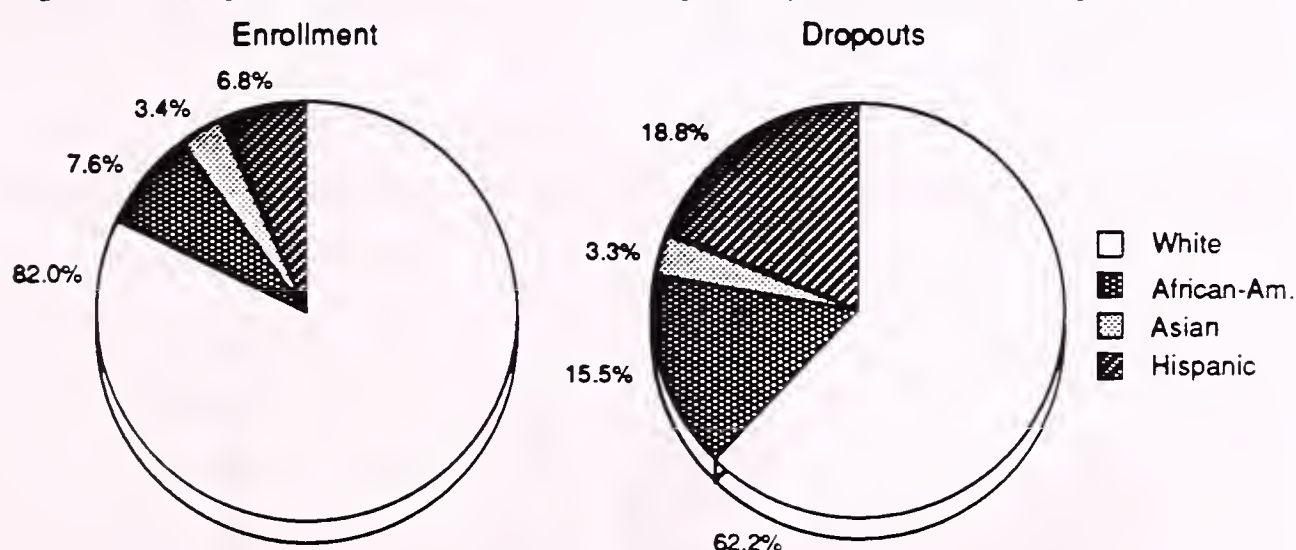
The wide disparity in annual dropout rates for the various racial/ethnic groups raises concern about how well schools are serving students with diverse cultural or linguistic backgrounds. The rate for Hispanic students, the highest at 11.1 percent, was nearly three times as high as that for white students at 3.0 percent (Table 1).

Analysis of Dropout Rates

African-American students had the second highest rate at 8.1 percent, nearly twice as high as the rate for white students. The dropout rate for Asian students at 3.9 percent was substantially closer to that for white students and below the state average. Native American students, who make up less than one percent of the total enrollment, dropped out at a rate of 7.2 percent.

This disparity can also be seen by comparing the proportion of enrollment with the proportion of dropouts represented by the various racial/ethnic groups (Figure 6). While Hispanic and African-American students comprised 6.8 percent and 7.6 percent, respectively, of the total grade nine through twelve enrollment, they accounted for 18.8 percent and 15.5 percent, respectively, of the dropouts. On the other hand, white students comprised 82.0 percent of the total enrollment but only 62.2 percent of the dropouts. Asian and Native American students were proportionally represented in the dropout pool. Asian students comprised 3.4 percent of the enrollment and 3.3 percent of the dropouts, and Native American students comprised 0.2 percent of the enrollment and 0.3 percent of the dropouts.

Figure 6. Composition of Enrollment and Dropouts by Race/Ethnic Group: 1991



Native Americans comprised 0.2% of enrollment and 0.3% of dropouts

Although it may appear that the data show race/ethnicity to be associated with dropping out, the data is misleading in this respect. Research has shown that when students of similar socioeconomic status are compared, the disparity in dropout rates by racial/ethnic group largely disappears. To illustrate this, 1991 dropout rates in the following communities were higher for whites than those for Hispanics or African-Americans: Fall River - whites 10.2%, Hispanics 0%, African-Americans 9.0%; Lawrence - whites 16.6%, Hispanics 13.8%, African-Americans 10.4%; Salem - whites 6.3%, Hispanics 6.1%, African-Americans 2.7%. This is consistent with the view that it is not race/ethnicity per se that is strongly associated with dropping out but rather the socioeconomic conditions in which certain populations live. However, it is also likely that linguistic minorities are particularly at-risk. The high dropout rate for Hispanic students, largely a function of socioeconomic status, is also partially a

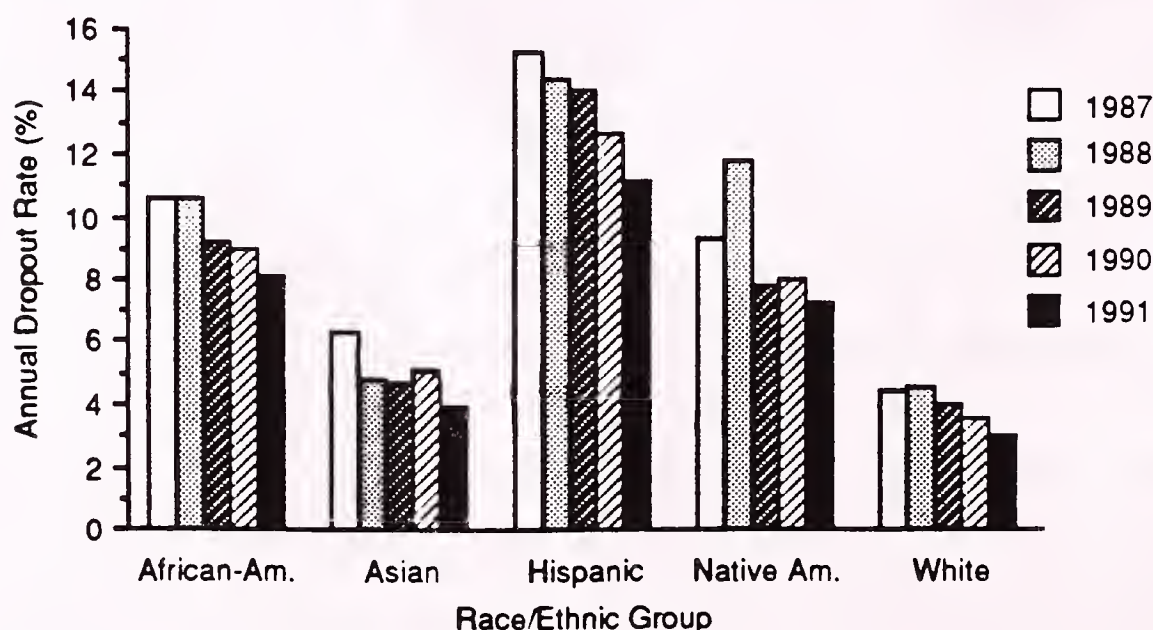
Dropout Rates in Massachusetts Public Schools: 1991

function of linguistic and cultural barriers they face. Schools must help them overcome these barriers while at the same time affirming their diversity.

The projected four-year dropout rates for the Class of 1994 showed similar disparity by race/ethnicity (Table 1). The rate was highest for Hispanic students at 37 percent, followed by African-American and Native American students, both at 28 percent. The rate was lowest for white students at 12 percent and was somewhat higher for Asian students at 15 percent.

The annual dropout rate has declined for all racial/ethnic groups since 1987 (Table 2 and Figure 7), although the amount and pattern of the decline varied for the different racial/ethnic groups. For the most part, the annual dropout rate declined in every year for all the racial/ethnic groups, with the exceptions of slight increases for Asian students in 1990 and for white students in 1988 and a fairly large jump for Native American students in 1988. The absolute decrease over the five-year period was greatest for Hispanic students, whose dropout rate decreased by 4.1 percentage points, followed by African-American students with a decrease of 2.5 percentage points, Asian students with a drop of 2.4 percentage points, Native American students with a decline of 2.1 percentage points, and white students with a decrease of 1.4 percentage points.

Figure 7. Annual Dropout Rates by Race/Ethnic Group: 1987-1991



The projected four-year dropout rate has similarly declined for all racial/ethnic groups between 1988 and 1991, with the amount and pattern of the decline likewise varying for the different groups (Table 3). The projected four-year rate decreased or stayed the same in every year over this period for all groups with the exception of a small increase for Asian students in the Class of 1993. The amount of decline over this period was greatest for Native American students, although this may be a result

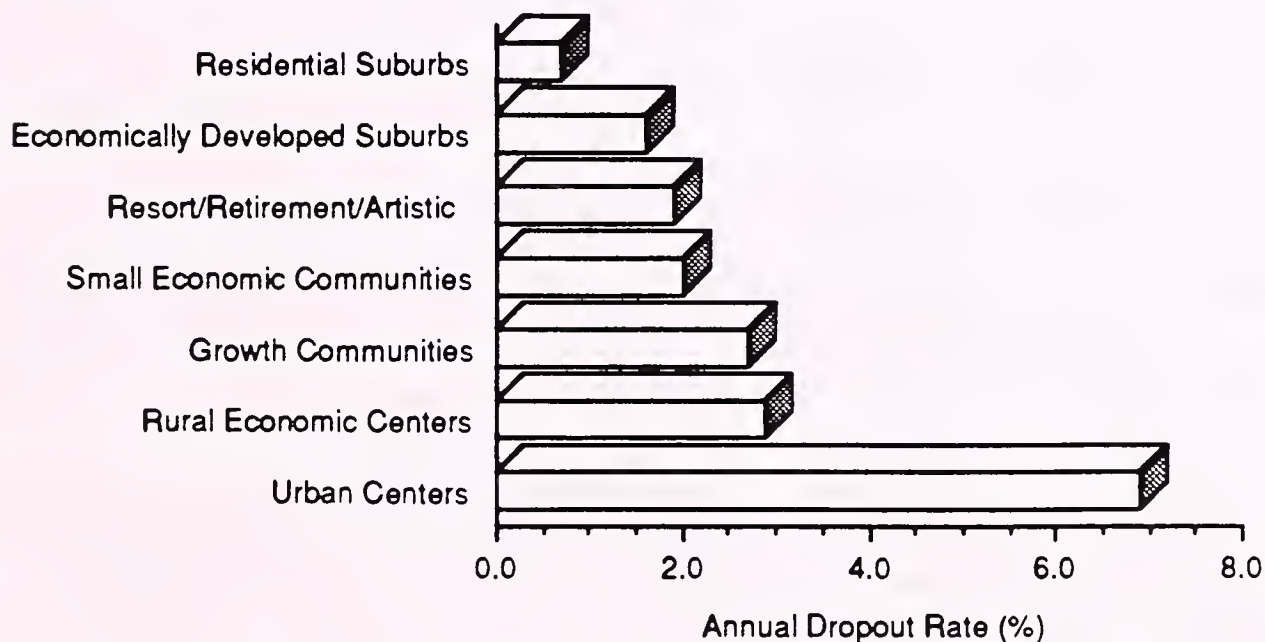
Analysis of Dropout Rates

of an abnormally high rate for the Class of 1991; since then the change has been very gradual. African-American and Hispanic students experienced a decrease of eight percentage points, followed by white students with a five percentage point drop and Asian students with a three percentage point decline.

Results by Kind of Community

The Department of Education groups communities into seven different categories known as Kind of Community (KOC). The categories are derived from a cluster analysis based on 15 socioeconomic and demographic attributes which represent important factors that differentiate communities from one another. Classifying communities according to common attributes allows schools to evaluate their performance in relation to schools that share similar attributes. The data used in classifying communities were obtained from the 1980 U.S. Census; 1990 Census data is now available for future analyses. Appendix A lists all communities in the state by KOC.

Figure 8. Annual Dropout Rates by Kind of Community: 1991

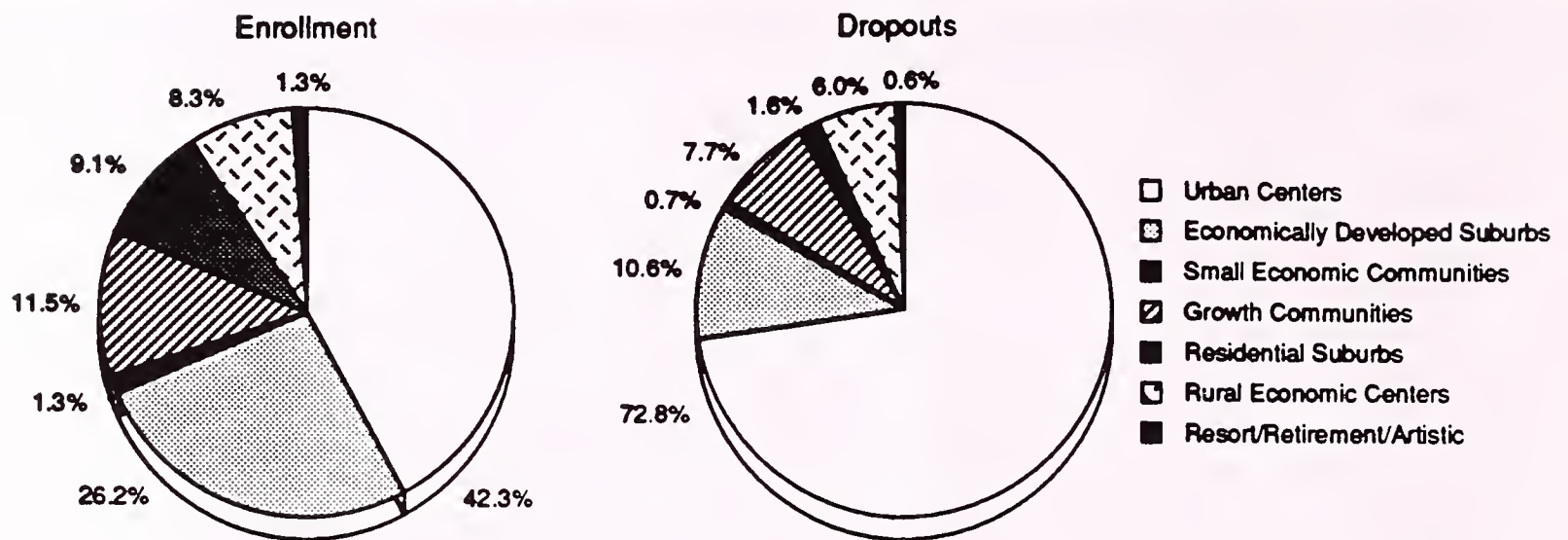


Dropout rates varied widely by Kind of Community (Table 1 and Figure 8). The rate for urban centers, the highest at 6.9 percent, was nearly ten times higher than the rate for residential suburbs, the lowest at 0.7 percent. Rural economic centers had the second highest dropout rate at 2.9 percent, followed by growth communities at 2.7 percent, small economic communities at 2.0 percent, resort/retirement/artistic communities at 1.9 percent and economically developed suburbs at 1.6 percent.

This disparity in dropout rates by Kind of Community can also be seen by comparing the proportion of enrollment with the proportion of dropouts represented by the different community types (Figure 9). While students in urban centers comprised

Dropout Rates in Massachusetts Public Schools: 1991

Figure 9. Composition of Enrollment and Dropouts by Kind of Community: 1991



42.3 percent of the total grade nine through twelve enrollment, they accounted for 72.8 percent of the dropouts. On the other hand, students in residential suburbs comprised 9.1 percent of the enrollment but accounted for only 1.6 percent of the dropouts, and students in economically developed suburbs comprised 26.2 percent of the enrollment but accounted for only 10.6 percent of the dropouts. The other community types were relatively proportionally represented in the dropout pool. The over-representation of students in urban centers in the dropout pool is consistent with it being the only community type having a dropout rate above the state average.

The projected four-year dropout rate likewise varied greatly by Kind of Community. The rate for urban centers was highest at 25 percent, followed by rural economic centers at 11 percent, growth communities at 10 percent, small economic communities at eight percent, resort/retirement/artistic communities at seven percent, economically developed suburbs at six percent and residential suburbs at two percent.

Here, also, it is not community type per se that is strongly associated with dropping out but rather socioeconomic conditions that are related to the community types. Dropout rates are disproportionately high in areas with high poverty levels. In 1991 schools in urban centers enrolled 80.3 percent of all students in the state whose families received Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) but only 42.3 percent of the grade nine through twelve statewide student population.

On the other hand, of the 115 urban schools in the state, 48 had dropout rates below the state average and 24 had dropout rates below two percent, comparable to their suburban counterparts, which is evidence that many urban schools are succeeding in graduating most of their students. This suggests that what goes on within schools can be as important as the conditions that exist outside of schools in affecting their holding power.

Annual dropout rates have declined in every year between 1988 and 1991 for every community type,² with the exception of an increase in 1990 for resort/retirement/

Analysis of Dropout Rates

artistic communities (Table 2). Urban centers had the largest decrease in the dropout rate, a decline of 2.0 percentage points. Growth communities had the second largest decrease in the dropout rate, a decline of 1.6 percentage points, followed by rural economic centers and small economic communities with drops of 1.5 percentage points, economically developed suburbs and resort/retirement/artistic communities with decreases of 1.0 percentage point, and residential suburbs with a decline of 0.7 percentage point.

The projected four-year dropout rate decreased in every year between 1988 and 1991 for all community types, with the exception of no change for residential suburbs for the Class of 1992 and an increase for resort/retirement/artistic communities for the Class of 1993 (Table 3). The largest decrease in the projected four-year dropout rate was in urban centers, growth communities, rural economic centers and small economic communities, all with declines of six percentage points, followed by economically developed suburbs and resort/retirement/artistic communities with drops of four percentage points and residential suburbs with a decrease of three percentage points.

Results for Vocational-Technical Schools

For the 1990-91 reporting year, 47 vocational-technical schools enrolled 29,486 ninth- to twelfth-graders, accounting for 12.8 percent of the state's ninth- through twelfth-graders.³ A total of 1,241 of those students dropped out, representing an annual dropout rate of 4.2 percent, close to the statewide annual rate of 4.0 percent.

Table 5. Annual Dropout Rates for Vocational-Technical Schools: 1990-1991

	<u>Enrollment</u> <u>Grade 9-12*</u>	<u>Number of</u> <u>Dropouts</u>	<u>1991 Annual</u> <u>Dropout Rate</u>	<u>1990 Annual</u> <u>Dropout Rate</u>
All Voc-Tech Schools	29,486	1,241	4.2%	4.7%
Regional Voc-Tech	24,803	827	3.3%	3.9%
City/Town Voc-Tech	4,683	414	8.8%	8.8%

* figures do not include vocational-technical students enrolled in comprehensive high schools

In 1991, over 84 percent of vocational students, excluding those enrolled in comprehensive high schools, attended the 35 regional, independent or county vocational-technical schools in the state. The remainder attended the 12 vocational-technical schools that were part of city and town school systems, 10 of which were located in urban centers. The annual dropout rate of 8.8 percent for city/town vocational-technical schools was over two-and-a-half times as high as the rate of 3.3 percent for regional, independent and county vocational-technical schools (Table 5) and was also higher than the rate of 6.9 percent for urban centers. The annual dropout rate decreased between 1990 and 1991 for regional vocational-technical schools from a

Dropout Rates in Massachusetts Public Schools: 1991

rate of 3.9 percent, while the rate for city/town vocational-technical schools remained the same.

Results by Service Delivery Area

Service Delivery Areas (SDAs) are the 16 regions of the state, established by the Department of Employment and Training under the Job Training Partnership Act, through which employment and training services are planned and implemented. Each SDA has a designated agency responsible for coordinating programs and services. With the exception of Boston, which is an SDA unto itself, each SDA is comprised of many communities (see Appendix B for a listing). The SDA system is based on geographical location, and therefore, unlike the KOC categories, the communities within each SDA do not necessarily share similar socioeconomic and demographic attributes. The Department of Employment and Training, the state agency responsible for administering state and federal employment and training programs, as well as local SDA administering agencies and service providers, use dropout information to more appropriately target their resources.

Table 6. Annual Dropout Rates by Service Delivery Area: 1990-1991

<u>SDA</u>	<u>Districts Served</u>	<u>Enrollment Grade 9-12</u>	<u>Number of Dropouts</u>	<u>1991 Annual Dropout Rate</u>	<u>1990 Annual Dropout Rate</u>
Berkshire	19	5,788	201	3.4%	4.2%
Boston	1	16,774	1,801	10.7%	10.9%
Bristol	16	13,403	664	4.9%	5.8%
Brockton	13	10,300	416	4.0%	4.5%
Franklin/Hampshire	45	8,284	276	3.3%	3.4%
Hampden	22	18,509	1,098	5.9%	6.5%
Metro North	21	22,068	651	2.9%	3.4%
Metro Southwest	54	32,476	396	1.2%	1.7%
New Bedford*	11	9,587	443	4.6%	4.6%
Lower Merrimack	19	12,060	650	5.3%	5.6%
Northern Middlesex	9	11,380	334	2.9%	4.4%
Northern Worcester	22	9,897	354	3.5%	4.1%
Southern Coastal	25	18,402	436	2.3%	2.5%
Southern Essex	21	13,548	526	3.8%	5.2%
Southern Worcester	37	20,235	770	3.8%	4.5%
Cape & Islands*	27	7,358	253	3.4%	—
Total	362	230,069	9,269	4.0%	4.6%

* Cape & Islands is a new SDA composed of districts which were formerly in New Bedford SDA

Annual dropout rates for 1991 varied a great deal for the different SDAs, ranging from a low of 1.2 percent for Metro Southwest to a high of 10.7 percent for Boston (Table 6). In addition to Boston, the other SDAs with dropout rates above the state average of 4.0 percent were Hampden at 5.9 percent, Lower Merrimack at 5.3 percent, Bristol

Analysis of Dropout Rates

at 4.9 percent and New Bedford at 4.6 percent. The dropout rates for all SDAs decreased between 1990 and 1991, although the amount of the decline varied considerably among the different SDAs.

Results for Schools Targeted by Dropout Prevention Grants

Since Fiscal Year 1987, selected schools in the Commonwealth have been receiving dropout prevention grants through the Chapter 188 Dropout Prevention Program. Grants are awarded on a competitive basis to school districts which seek to address the needs of students who are at risk of dropping out through a systemic, school-based approach. Priority is given to districts which have high dropout rates and high concentrations of students from low-income families.

In order to assess the impact of the dropout prevention grant program, 31 high schools targeted by grants for at least three years between Fiscal Years 1987 and 1990 were reviewed. High schools which did not receive grants but which served students coming from middle/junior high schools which did receive grants were included in the analysis when there was a clear link between the feeder school and the high school; a high school fed by several middle/junior high schools was included if a majority of the feeder schools received grants.

Table 7. Annual Dropout Rates for Schools Targeted by Dropout Prevention Grants: 1988 and 1991

	<u>Number of Schools</u>	<u>1991 Annual Rate</u>	<u>1988 Annual Rate</u>
Statewide	31	7.8%	8.8%
Urban	22	8.4%	9.4%

This analysis consists of schools which were targeted by dropout prevention grants for at least three years between Fiscal Years 1987 and 1990.

The results show a positive impact of the dropout prevention grants (Table 7), despite a 79 percent decrease in grant funds between Fiscal Year 1987 and Fiscal Year 1991. In 1991, the annual dropout rate statewide for schools targeted by dropout prevention grants and included in this analysis was 7.8 percent. The dropout rate for targeted schools declined from 8.8 percent in 1988. Of the 31 schools included in the analysis, 26 had decreases in their dropout rates and five had increases; the increases were relatively small and may reveal that in some schools increased time is necessary to improve the conditions for holding onto students. Although this decline of one percentage point is not steep, it is an indication of substantial progress in these schools. Furthermore, some individual schools did make strong gains. For example, South High Community School in Worcester dropped from 15.8 percent to 10.8; Easthampton High School, 9.6 to 2.2; Somerville High School, 9.0 to 4.7; Greenfield Senior High School, 8.2 to 4.0; and Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, 6.0 to 2.4.

Dropout Rates in Massachusetts Public Schools: 1991

Because many schools targeted by dropout prevention grants are urban schools, dropout rates for these schools were selectively analyzed. In 1991, the annual dropout rate for urban schools targeted by dropout prevention grants was 8.4 percent. This rate also declined by one percentage point from 9.4 percent in 1988.

Results for Students with Special Needs

A total of 2,007 students with special needs age 16 and older, out of an enrollment of 23,798, dropped out of school during the 1990-91 reporting year.⁴ This represents an annual dropout rate of 8.4 percent, more than two times higher than the statewide rate of 4.0 percent for all students. This rate increased slightly from a rate of 8.2 percent for 1990 (Table 8).

Table 8. Annual Dropout Rates for Students with Special Needs: 1989-1991

	<u>Enrollment Age 16-21</u>	<u>Number of Dropouts</u>	<u>1991 Annual Dropout Rate</u>	<u>1990 Annual Dropout Rate</u>	<u>1989 Annual Dropout Rate</u>
Total Special Needs	23,798	2,007	8.4%	8.2%	7.4%

Endnotes

1. The analysis of the distribution of dropout rates excludes schools with enrollments of less than 75 because dropout rates for schools with low enrollments are overly sensitive to small variations in the number of dropouts.
2. KOC data for 1987 is not available.
3. Numbers do not include vocational-technical students enrolled in comprehensive high schools.
4. Dropout data for students with special needs is derived from *Exit Data Report - A Headcount of Students Who Leave Special Education for 1991*. Enrollment data is preliminary data and will be revised in the next dropout report.

National Data

Until 1992, the definition of a dropout varied widely among states. State definitions varied on such issues as to whether students below the legal school-leaving age were counted as dropouts and the period and grade span used to count dropouts. Consequently, comparing dropout rates in this report to those reported by other states is inappropriate.

A comparison of the percentage of dropouts in Massachusetts with other states and the nation can be made, however, using estimates derived from the 1990 Decennial Census and published by the National Center for Education Statistics in *Dropout Rates in the United States: 1991*. The national dropout data known as "status dropout rates" indicate the percentage of 16- through 19-year-olds who are not currently enrolled in school and have not graduated from high school.

The 1990 status dropout rate for Massachusetts was 9.5 percent, compared to 12.5 percent for the nation as a whole. This placed Massachusetts 18th among the states, which had status dropout rates ranging from a low of 6.1 percent to a high of 14.9 percent. The rates for five northern industrial states to which Massachusetts is often compared were: Connecticut, 9.2 percent; New Jersey, 9.3 percent; Ohio, 8.8 percent; Pennsylvania, 9.4 percent; Rhode Island, 12.9 percent. Interested parties may obtain the 1990 status dropout rates for all states from the Department of Education, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

Although both the projected four-year dropout rate reported here and the status dropout rate attempt to measure the extent of the dropout problem, the two measures are not comparable as they are based on different data sets and methodologies. The status dropout rate will usually be lower than the projected four-year dropout rate for various reasons, including its accounting for students who drop out and return to school or receive a General Educational Development (G.E.D) and its inclusion of students enrolled in private schools. Furthermore, the two measures serve different purposes. The projected four-year dropout rate measures the holding power of schools, while the status dropout rate measures a characteristic of a particular population of communities.

New Dropout Definition in 1992

To address the need for uniform dropout data from each state in order to make state and national comparisons, the U.S. Department of Education, in conjunction with state education agencies, recently developed a definition of a dropout to be used by all states, as well as procedures for the collection and reporting of dropout data. Beginning in 1992, Massachusetts public schools will report dropout figures according to the new federal definition. While this will allow for comparisons of state and national data, it will limit the validity of a comparison of dropout figures for the 1991-

Dropout Rates in Massachusetts Public Schools: 1991

92 reporting year with those for previous years. Interested parties may obtain the new dropout definition from the Department of Education, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

Technical Information

Data Collection

Dropout figures were reported to the Department of Education in the Chapter 188 Individual School Report (1990-91). Individual public schools reported the number of students who dropped out over a 12-month period beginning July 1, 1990, and ending June 30, 1991. As previously stated, in Massachusetts a dropout is defined as a student age 16 or older who leaves school prior to graduation for reasons other than transfer to another school. Dropouts were classified by gender within five racial/ethnic groups across grades six through twelve. Statewide dropout data are based on the responses of 343 public schools located in 252 school districts in the Commonwealth, representing all public schools that contain any of the grades nine through twelve.

Limitations of Data

As in any survey research, the accuracy of the data is limited by such factors as the design of the survey and by reporting and processing errors. The Department of Education has attempted to minimize reporting errors by providing ongoing technical assistance to school personnel completing the survey. Additionally, schools reporting a very large change in the number of dropouts from the previous year were contacted to confirm the data.

The accuracy of the data depends primarily on how schools apply the definition of a dropout. Through our experience in collecting dropout data we have found that the most common reporting errors fall into the following two categories:

1. Counting students who have transferred as dropouts. When a student leaves school, and school officials have no evidence that the student has transferred to another school or graduated, the student is classified as a dropout. In some cases, however, the student may be attending school in another district, state or country, but no attempt has been made to inform the student's previous school of the transfer. This results in an over-count of the number of dropouts.
2. Counting students who have dropped out as transfers. According to the definition of a dropout, a student who leaves school and enters a General Equivalency Diploma (G.E.D) program that is not part of a district's secondary program is classified as a dropout. In some cases, however, such students are not counted as dropouts. This results in an under-count of the number of dropouts.

Dropout Rates in Massachusetts Public Schools: 1991

Dropout Rate Formulas

Annual Dropout Rate

In Massachusetts, the annual dropout rate is calculated by comparing the number of dropouts over a single one-year period, from July 1 to June 30 of the following year, to the October 1 enrollment for that period. Enrollment data are derived from the *Individual School Report*, commonly referred to as the October Enrollment Report. October 1, 1990, enrollment data were used to determine the 1991 annual dropout rate. Because students who drop out prior to October 1 are counted as dropouts but are not included in the enrollment figure against which the number of dropouts is compared, the results are slightly biased in an upwards direction to the degree to which students drop out prior to October 1.

$$\text{Annual Dropout Rate} = \text{number of dropouts} / \text{October enrollment} * 100$$

Example: statewide annual dropout rate (1991) = $9,269 / 230,069 * 100 = 4.0\%$

Projected Four-Year Dropout Rate

The projected four-year dropout rate is determined by calculating the cumulative effect of several years of dropping out according to the formula shown below.

$$\text{Projected Four-Year Dropout Rate} = [1 - (1 - W)(1 - X)(1 - Y)(1 - Z)] * 100$$

W = Annual Dropout Rate in Grade 9

X = Annual Dropout Rate in Grade 10

Y = Annual Dropout Rate in Grade 11

Z = Annual Dropout Rate in Grade 12

Example: Statewide Projected Four-Year Dropout Rate (1991) =
 $[1 - (1 - .035)(1 - .047)(1 - .045)(1 - .033)] * 100 = 15\%$

The grade-specific dropout rates (W,X,Y and Z) vary according to the particular population being examined. Grade-specific dropout rates for individual schools and school districts, as well as projected four-year dropout rates for individual schools, are available from the Department of Education, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

The methodology assumes that (1) current annual dropout rates for grades ten, eleven and twelve will remain constant over the next three years, and (2) students who drop out will not return to school. The extent to which violation of the first assumption biases the projection can be illustrated by comparing the projected four-year dropout rate for the Class of 1991 with the actual four-year dropout rate for the Class of 1991. The projected four-year rate was 20 percent and the actual four-year rate was 18.2

percent. The actual four-year rate was lower than the projected four-year rate because the dropout rates for tenth-graders in 1989, for eleventh-graders in 1990 and for twelfth-graders in 1991 were lower than the dropout rates for students in those grades in 1988.

The Department of Education recognizes that there are different ways to define dropouts and calculate dropout rates. The methodology used in this study attempts to balance the benefit of having accurate and uniform information about dropouts with the burden and expense of the process of collecting and analyzing the data. We encourage suggestions about how the methodology or reporting on dropouts may be improved.

Annual and Projected 4-Year Dropout Rates by School and District

District		Annual Rates					Projected 4-Year Rates *			
		1988 Rate (%)	1989 Rate (%)	1990 Rate (%)	1991		Class of 1991 Rate (%)	Class of 1992 Rate (%)	Class of 1993 Rate (%)	Class of 1994 Rate (%)
					10/1/90 Enroll.	No. Dropouts				
Abington Agawam	Abington High	2.4	3.1	2.4	484	6	9	11	9	5
	Agawam Jr High	1.5	1.3	2.1	250	3				
	Agawam High	7.1	5.0	3.6	846	21				
	Total	5.9	4.2	3.3	1,096	24	21	16	13	8
Amesbury	Amesbury High	3.4	5.3	5.7	590	18	13	20	21	12
Andover	Andover High	1.7	0.7	0.6	1,181	6	5	3	3	2
Arlington	Arlington High	2.7	0.7	1.3	1,056	9	10	3	5	3
Ashland	Ashland High	1.2	0.5	0.2	358	0	5	2	1	0
Attleboro	Attleboro High	6.9	7.6	7.3	1,096	72				
	Attleboro Voc Tech High	16.0	10.5	11.8	386	42				
	Total	9.3	8.3	8.4	1,482	114	32	29	30	28
Auburn	Auburn Sr High	2.7	1.6	1.0	567	7	10	6	4	5
Avon	Avon Middle/High	2.4	0.7	3.0	122	1	8	3	12	4
Ayer	Ayer Sr High	4.4	2.2	3.8	512	19	17	9	14	14
Barnstable	Barnstable High	4.8	6.2	5.3	1,389	55	18	23	19	15
Bedford	Bedford High	1.2	1.2	0.6	575	5	5	4	2	3
Belchertown	Belchertown High	5.0	3.4	2.1	378	6	19	14	8	6
Bellingham	Bellingham Memorial Jr/Sr	3.7	2.6	1.5	568	0				
	Bellingham Alt Jr/Sr High	--	--	--	9	3				
	Total	3.8	2.7	1.6	577	3	14	10	6	100
Belmont	Belmont High	0.7	0.0	0.3	768	9	3	0	1	4
Beverly	Beverly High	2.5	4.6	3.5	1,174	33	10	17	14	11
Billerica	Billerica Memorial High	4.5	2.8	2.3	1,446	28	17	11	9	7
Boston	William McKinley	35.5	28.1	35.2	185	58				
	Brighton High	24.7	22.8	21.8	1,170	188				
	Charlestown High	11.4	7.4	19.6	1,007	139				

* projected four-year rates provided by district only; -- indicates a school was not in operation or did not report data in a particular year

Annual and Projected 4-Year Dropout Rates by School and District

District	School	Annual Rates				Projected 4-Year Rates *			
		1988	1989	1990	1991	Class of 1991 Rate (%)	Class of 1992 Rate (%)	Class of 1993 Rate (%)	Class of 1994 Rate (%)
		Rate (%)	Rate (%)	Rate (%)					
					10/1/90 Enroll. Dropouts	Rate (%)			
	Dorchester High	25.0	23.4	18.6	867	185	21.3		
	Jeremiah E Burke High	15.0	20.5	8.6	869	119	13.6		
	East Boston High	16.2	11.0	9.4	1,020	131	12.8		
	The English High	14.8	8.0	13.1	1,343	237	17.6		
	Madison Park High	14.7	12.6	9.0	1,816	200	11.0		
	Boston Latin Academy	1.3	0.1	0.2	836	9	1.0		
	Hyde Park High	8.8	7.9	14.7	1,004	113	11.2		
	Jamaica Plain High	29.2	27.8	--	--	--	--		
	Boston Latin	0.1	0.1	0.0	1,443	2	0.1		
	South Boston High	19.9	12.8	15.4	1,042	180	17.2		
	West Roxbury Sch	9.9	13.8	10.0	1,396	29	2.0		
	Boston Tech High	2.4	3.1	1.8	1,171	18	1.5		
	Mario Umana Harbor	12.2	7.0	--	--	--	--		
	Boston High	19.0	11.1	15.3	1,097	179	16.3		
	Snowden Int'L High	5.5	5.1	2.4	478	13	2.7		
	Horace Mann	7.8	--	--	30	1	3.3		
	Total	13.4	11.3	11.0	16,774	1,801	10.7	43	36
Bourne	Bourne High	3.2	1.9	2.2	584	6	1.0	12	4
Braintree	Braintree High	3.6	3.0	2.8	1,143	19	1.6	13	6
Brockton	Lincoln Altern Sch	--	--	--	45	6	13.3		
	Brockton High	9.1	8.8	9.3	3,232	270	8.3		
	Ithaka Altern High	54.3	36.9	20.8	--	--	--		
	Total	9.7	9.2	9.5	3,277	276	8.4	33	30
Brookline	Brookline High	--	1.7	0.9	1,793	7	0.3	--	1
Burlington	Burlington High	1.1	0.7	0.9	994	5	0.5	4	2
Cambridge	Cambridge Rindge & Latin	6.0	5.6	5.0	2,078	51	2.4	22	10

* projected four-year rates provided by district only; -- indicates a school was not in operation or did not report data in a particular year

Annual and Projected 4-Year Dropout Rates by School and District

District	School	Annual Rates				Projected 4-Year Rates *			
		1988	1989	1990	1991	Class of	Class of	Class of	Class of
		Rate (%)	Rate (%)	Rate (%)		1991 Rate (%)	1992 Rate (%)	1993 Rate (%)	1994 Rate (%)
					10/1/90 Enroll.	No. Dropouts	Rate (%)		
Canton	Canton High	1.4	1.7	1.5	659	3	0.4	5	7
Chatham	Chatham High	1.1	0.0	1.7	166	1	0.6	4	0
Chelmsford	Chelmsford High	2.2	2.1	0.9	1,507	19	1.2	8	8
Chelsea	Chelsea High	16.6	17.6	20.1	839	112	13.3	51	52
Chicopee	Chicopee High	8.5	10.2	5.8	913	65	7.1		
	Chicopee Comprehensive HS	7.5	6.1	7.3	1,225	59	4.8		
	Total	7.9	7.9	6.7	2,138	124	5.8		
Clinton	Clinton Sr High	5.4	4.4	3.2	452	14	3.1	28	27
Cohasset	Cohasset Jr/Sr High	0.7	0.2	0.3	319	1	0.3	20	16
Danvers	Danvers High	2.5	1.9	0.7	777	7	0.9	3	1
	Danvers Altem High	--	40.0	16.6	21	5	23.8		
	Total	2.6	2.8	1.2	798	12	1.5	10	11
Dartmouth	Dartmouth High	3.7	2.2	3.0	1,111	16	1.4	14	9
Dedham	Dedham High	2.6	3.3	0.9	679	12	1.7	10	13
Douglas	Douglas Memorial High	3.4	3.8	3.8	175	4	2.2	14	13
Dracut	Dracut Sr High	2.9	2.7	2.7	853	29	3.4	11	10
Duxbury	Duxbury High	0.2	0.6	0.7	750	3	0.4	1	2
East Bridgewater	East Bridgewater High	3.8	2.4	2.2	605	12	1.9	15	9
Easthampton	Easthampton High	9.6	5.4	3.6	442	10	2.2	33	20
East Longmeadow	East Longmeadow High	2.5	2.5	1.1	611	7	1.1	10	9
Easton	Easton Jr High	0.0	0.4	0.0	196	0	0.0		
	Oliver Ames High	1.9	1.7	0.7	662	3	0.4		
	Total	1.5	1.5	0.5	858	3	0.3	6	6
Everett	Everett High	3.4	4.1	3.8	1,149	39	3.3	13	15
Fairhaven	Fairhaven High	5.3	3.6	5.7	636	34	5.3	19	14
Fall River	B M C Durfee High	11.0	9.1	11.1	2,899	286	9.8	37	31

* projected four-year rates provided by district only; -- indicates a school was not in operation or did not report data in a particular year

Annual and Projected 4-Year Dropout Rates by School and District

District	School	Annual Rates				Projected 4-Year Rates *			
		1988	1989	1990	1991 No. Dropouts	Class of 1991 Rate (%)	Class of 1992 Rate (%)	Class of 1993 Rate (%)	Class of 1994 Rate (%)
		Rate (%)	Rate (%)	Rate (%)					
					10/1/90 Enroll.				
Falmouth	Falmouth High	4.7	7.3	4.7	1,292	17	26	18	18
Fitchburg	Fitchburg High	9.1	8.5	8.2	997	31	29	28	21
Foxborough	Foxborough High	3.6	3.9	1.6	672	13	14	6	5
Framingham	Framingham North High	2.5	1.7	1.7	1,011				
	Framingham South High	5.3	3.4	5.9	904				
	Total	3.8	2.5	3.7	1,915	14	10	14	10
Franklin	Franklin High	4.7	2.4	1.7	830	18	9	7	9
Gardner	Gardner High	5.0	5.3	4.7	618	19	20	18	17
Georgetown	Georgetown Jr/Sr High	0.6	0.3	0.6	297	3	2	3	3
Gloucester	Gloucester High	9.2	6.3	6.2	916	30	22	23	14
Grafton	Grafton Memorial Sr	4.5	2.5	2.5	464	17	10	10	14
Granby	Granby Jr/Sr High Sch	3.4	1.6	2.1	245	12	6	8	16
Greenfield	Greenfield Sr High	8.2	4.7	5.3	642	29	18	19	16
Hadley	Hopkins Academy	1.5	0.0	1.5	127	7	0	5	0
Hanover	Hanover High	0.7	1.2	1.5	542	2	5	5	4
Harvard	Bromfield	1.0	0.3	0.4	231	3	1	2	2
Harwich	Harwich High	2.2	2.2	1.8	312	8	7	7	6
Hatfield	Smith Academy	0.0	0.0	0.0	110	0	0	0	4
Haverhill	Haverhill High	7.4	5.1	4.8	1,420	27	18	18	18
Hingham	Hingham High	1.4	0.2	0.5	851	4	1	2	1
Holbrook	Holbrook Jr/Sr High	4.5	2.2	2.2	356	18	9	9	12
Holliston	Holliston High	0.8	0.9	0.2	687	3	4	1	1
Holyoke	Dr Wm R Peck	0.0	1.6	--	--				
	John J Lynch Jr High	5.3	1.2	--	--				
	Holyoke High	12.9	10.4	10.8	1,257				
	Wm J Dean Voc Tech High	4.7	3.3	8.2	591				
					180				
					33				

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Annual and Projected 4-Year Dropout Rates by School and District

District	School	Annual Rates				Projected 4-Year Rates *			
		1988	1989	1990	1991 No. Dropouts	Class of 1991 Rate (%)	Class of 1992 Rate (%)	Class of 1993 Rate (%)	Class of 1994 Rate (%)
		Rate (%)	Rate (%)	Rate (%)		Rate (%)	Rate (%)	Rate (%)	Rate (%)
	Total	10.0	8.2	10.2	1,848	213	11.5		
Hopedale	Hopedale Jr/Sr High	1.3	0.9	1.0	212	1	0.4	36	39
Hopkinton	Hopkinton Jr/Sr High	1.1	0.6	0.7	291	1	0.3	4	2
Hudson	Hudson High	3.1	1.5	3.9	567	20	3.5	3	1
Hull	Hull Jr/Sr High	5.1	6.1	2.6	392	11	2.8	14	13
Ipswich	Ipswich High	3.6	3.3	2.1	373	7	1.8	10	11
Lawrence	Lawrence High	14.8	13.6	15.5	2,019	289	14.3	8	7
Lee	Lee High	2.0	1.6	1.4	319	1	0.3	44	46
Leicester	Leicester High	2.4	3.5	3.5	392	13	3.3	6	1
Lenox	Lenox Memorial High	4.2	0.0	0.9	226	3	1.3	14	12
Leominster	Leominster Sr High	5.3	3.4	4.5	1,078	44	4.0	0	4
	Leominster High Trade	11.9	5.3	5.3	301	18	5.9		
	Total	6.8	3.9	4.7	1,379	62	4.5	15	17
Lexington	Lexington High	0.6	0.9	0.5	1,295	1	0.1	4	0
Littleton	Littleton Jr/Sr High	1.5	2.9	1.9	256	2	0.7	10	3
Longmeadow	Longmeadow High	0.5	1.1	0.6	842	0	0.0	4	0
Lowell	Lowell High	14.1	11.2	9.0	2,404	129	5.3	37	19
Ludlow	Ludlow Sr High	2.4	1.7	2.6	833	6	0.7	7	3
Lunenburg	Lunenburg High	1.9	1.1	1.1	410	9	2.2	10	3
Lynn	Breed Jr High	--	--	0.0	--	--	--	4	8
	Classical High	9.5	18.6	12.5	653	43	6.5		
	Lynn English High	10.5	10.1	17.0	1,264	130	10.2		
	JB Flood Altern High	--	15.0	22.8	--	--	--		
	O'Keefe Altern High	--	--	--	38	9	23.6		
	Lynn Voc Tech Inst	4.3	6.3	5.8	911	41	4.5		
	Total	8.4	10.9	12.6	2,866	223	7.8	29	27

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Annual and Projected 4-Year Dropout Rates by School and District

District	School	Annual Rates				Projected 4-Year Rates *			
		1988	1989	1990	1991 No. Dropouts	Class of 1991 Rate (%)	Class of 1992 Rate (%)	Class of 1993 Rate (%)	Class of 1994 Rate (%)
		Rate (%)	Rate (%)	Rate (%)					
					10/1/90 Enroll.				
Lynnfield	Lynnfield High	1.3	0.9	0.8	407	5	3	4	4
Malden	Malden High	8.4	4.8	5.5	1,357	31	18	21	24
Manchester	Manchester Jr/Sr High	1.3	0.4	0.5	180	5	2	3	0
Mansfield	Mansfield High	3.4	3.4	0.9	615	13	14	4	5
Marblehead	Marblehead High	0.7	1.3	0.6	624	3	6	2	1
Marlborough	Marlborough High	6.0	5.9	4.6	813	22	22	17	11
Marshfield	Marshfield High	1.7	2.3	2.0	1,021	6	9	8	6
Maynard	Maynard High	3.7	1.2	3.2	250	13	5	14	11
Medfield	Medfield Sr High	0.1	0.4	0.2	435	1	1	1	2
Medford	Medford High	5.3	3.2	2.1	1,180				
	Curtis-Tufts	33.3	13.8	17.1	35				
	Medford Voc Tech High	4.2	3.1	3.6	270				
	Total	5.5	3.4	2.8	1,485	20	13	11	11
Medway	Medway High	1.2	1.3	0.6	429	4	5	2	2
Melrose	Melrose High	2.2	1.2	0.6	1,088	6	4	3	3
Methuen	Methuen High	6.2	6.8	5.2	1,312	23	24	19	18
Middleborough	Middleborough High	3.8	2.5	2.1	803	14	10	8	6
Milford	Milford High	3.0	2.0	2.0	1,059	12	8	8	10
Millbury	Millbury Memorial High	4.4	4.6	2.5	396	17	17	9	11
Millis	Millis High	1.6	2.5	1.8	232	7	10	7	0
Milton	Milton High	0.4	1.3	0.5	689	2	5	2	2
Monson	Monson Jr/Sr High	4.0	2.5	3.2	257	16	10	13	8
Nantucket	Nantucket High	0.0	0.4	0.9	205	0	1	3	2
Natick	Natick High	2.8	2.2	1.6	1,040				
	East School Alternative	--	--	--	11				
	Total	2.9	2.2	1.7	1,051	11	9	6	6

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Annual and Projected 4-Year Dropout Rates by School and District

District		Annual Rates				Projected 4-Year Rates *					
		1988 Rate (%)	1989 Rate (%)	1990 Rate (%)	1991		Class of 1991 Rate (%)	Class of 1992 Rate (%)	Class of 1993 Rate (%)	Class of 1994 Rate (%)	
					10/1/90 Enroll.	No. Dropouts					Rate (%)
Needham	Needham High	0.5	2.1	0.4	987	0	0.0	2	8	1	0
	New Bedford High	9.7	9.6	8.4	3,222	301	9.3	32	32	29	31
	Newburyport High	4.3	2.8	3.0	633	14	2.2	16	11	12	9
	Newton North High	2.4	2.8	1.4	1,577	15	0.9				
	Newton South High	3.6	0.5	1.5	1,091	1	0.1				
North Adams	Total	2.9	2.0	1.5	2,668	16	0.6	11	7	6	2
	Drury High	8.5	6.2	7.4	614	40	6.5	30	23	26	23
	Northampton High	4.9	4.3	3.9	850	26	3.0	18	16	15	12
	North Andover High	2.1	1.1	2.2	880	18	2.0	8	4	8	8
	North Attleborough High	2.7	4.8	2.3	845	22	2.6	11	18	9	10
Northbridge	Northbridge Jr-Sr High	5.6	5.0	5.5	511	31	6.0	21	19	20	22
	North Brookfield High	5.5	4.4	2.5	193	6	3.1	20	17	10	11
	North Reading Jr High	--	--	--	128	0	0.0				
	North Reading High	3.0	1.5	2.1	385	4	1.0				
	Total	3.0	1.6	2.1	513	4	0.8	8	5	6	3
Norton	Norton High	5.0	4.3	3.7	586	25	4.2	18	16	14	16
	Norwell High	1.2	0.7	0.9	484	0	0.0	5	2	4	0
	Norwood Jr High South	0.4	--	--	--	--	--				
	Norwood High	3.0	2.3	1.5	953	13	1.3				
	Henry O Peabody	22.2	0.0	--	--	--	--				
Oxford	Total	2.9	2.0	1.5	953	13	1.4	11	9	6	5
	Oxford High	5.0	2.5	1.0	476	4	0.8	19	9	4	3
	Palmer High	2.6	0.5	1.3	383	3	0.7	10	2	5	3
	Veterans Memorial High	3.7	3.1	4.1	1,431	45	3.1				
	Peabody Altern High	66.6	29.4	16.0	11	3	27.2				
Peabody	Peabody Vocational High	14.5	10.7	6.5	136	10	7.3				

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Annual and Projected 4-Year Dropout Rates by School and District

District	School	Annual Rates				Projected 4-Year Rates *			
		1988	1989	1990	1991 No. Dropouts	Class of 1991 Rate (%)	Class of 1992 Rate (%)	Class of 1993 Rate (%)	Class of 1994 Rate (%)
		Rate (%)	Rate (%)	Rate (%)					
Pittsfield	Total	5.4	4.2	4.5	1,578	58	3.7	20	14
	Pittsfield High	6.4	5.1	4.4	967	32	3.3	17	
	Taonic High	3.3	6.1	3.7	566	20	3.5		
	Hibbard Alternative	0.0	36.1	35.5	71	25	35.2		
	Adolescent Support Prog	57.1	--	--	--	--	--		
Provincetown	Pittsfield Vocational	--	6.2	6.5	326	16	4.9		
	Total	5.1	6.6	5.7	1,930	93	4.8	19	18
	Provincetown High	2.8	3.6	4.1	124	5	4.0	24	22
	Quincy High	5.5	5.6	5.1	1,211	98	8.0	11	
	North Quincy High	4.1	1.3	1.6	1,117	24	2.1		
Quincy	Quincy Voc Tech	5.8	2.1	2.0	--	--	--		
	Total	4.9	3.3	3.1	2,328	122	5.2	18	19
	Randolph Jr/Sr High	4.3	3.4	2.6	987	28	2.8	17	11
	Reading Memorial High	1.8	1.2	1.2	974	11	1.1	7	4
	Revere High	5.8	4.8	7.8	996	65	6.5	22	24
Rockland	Rockland Sr High	5.5	2.5	1.3	669	18	2.6	20	10
	Rockport Sr High	3.8	2.5	1.3	218	1	0.4	15	2
	Salem High	8.5	8.2	6.7	1,090	67	6.1	28	23
	Sandwich High	1.2	0.9	1.8	688	17	2.4	5	10
	Saugus High	1.0	0.6	2.1	807	0	0.0	4	0
Scituate	Scituate High	1.5	2.9	1.5	692	6	0.8	6	3
	Seekonk High	3.0	1.6	2.3	554	13	2.3	11	9
	Sharon High	0.9	0.9	0.9	676	2	0.3	4	1
	Shrewsbury Sr High	4.2	2.5	2.3	893	22	2.4	15	9
	Somerset High	2.0	2.7	3.0	943	23	2.4	8	9

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Annual and Projected 4-Year Dropout Rates by School and District

District		Annual Rates				Projected 4-Year Rates *					
		1988 Rate (%)	1989 Rate (%)	1990 Rate (%)	1991		Class of 1991 Rate (%)	Class of 1992 Rate (%)	Class of 1993 Rate (%)	Class of 1994 Rate (%)	
					10/1/90 Enroll.	No. Dropouts					Rate (%)
Somerville	Next Wave Jr High	33.3	8.3	42.8	8	0	0.0				
	Somerville High	9.0	4.7	4.1	1,924	92	4.7				
	Full Circle High	36.0	49.1	45.0	54	15	27.7				
Southbridge South Hadley Springfield	Total	9.9	6.0	5.5	1,986	107	5.4	34	22	21	21
	Southbridge High	8.5	10.0	8.7	502	53	10.5	30	34	30	36
	South Hadley High	2.9	2.2	1.6	540	7	1.3	11	9	6	5
	Chestnut Street Jr High	4.9	6.1	4.4	194	0	0.0				
	John J Duggan Jr High	6.7	5.6	1.0	162	5	3.0				
	Forest Park Jr High	6.5	5.1	4.0	207	0	0.0				
	John F Kennedy Jr High	6.2	2.5	8.6	155	3	1.9				
	M Marcus Kiley Jr High	2.3	2.0	1.3	266	3	1.1				
	Van Sickle Jr High	5.7	6.4	0.8	197	4	2.0				
	Bridge Academy Jr & Sr	60.2	63.3	41.2	111	61	54.9				
Stoneham Stoughton Sutton Swampscott Swansea Taunton Tewksbury Tyngsborough Uxbridge	Springfield Central High	5.7	2.7	8.4	1,910	75	3.9				
	High School of Commerce	13.9	20.1	14.0	1,151	146	12.6				
	Putnam Voc Tech High	29.6	22.2	16.3	1,365	217	15.9				
	Total	13.4	12.1	10.5	5,718	514	9.0	42	40	36	31
	Stoneham High	3.1	2.2	1.3	767	9	1.1	12	9	5	4
	Stoughton High	4.2	4.4	2.5	1,154	34	2.9	16	16	10	11
	Sutton High	4.1	2.9	4.0	256	5	1.9	17	12	15	7
	Swampscott High	1.6	0.8	1.4	578	3	0.5	6	3	5	2
	Joseph Case High	3.9	5.0	6.3	709	29	4.0	15	18	22	15
	Taunton High	12.1	13.0	8.1	1,439	80	5.5	39	42	29	21
Tyngsborough Uxbridge	Tewksbury Memorial High	2.6	2.5	3.0	945	11	1.1	10	9	12	5
	Tyngsborough Jr/Sr High	1.5	3.3	2.0	265	1	0.3	6	13	8	1
	Uxbridge High	7.3	5.3	3.7	318	6	1.8	28	22	15	7

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Annual and Projected 4-Year Dropout Rates by School and District

District	School	Annual Rates				Projected 4-Year Rates *			
		1988	1989	1990	1991 No. Dropouts	Class of 1991 Rate (%)	Class of 1992 Rate (%)	Class of 1993 Rate (%)	Class of 1994 Rate (%)
		Rate (%)	Rate (%)	Rate (%)					
					10/1/90 Enroll.				
Wakefield	Wakefield Memorial High	1.1	0.8	1.4	886	22	2.4	4	5
Walpole	Walpole High	1.2	0.6	0.5	739	4	0.5	5	2
Waltham	Waltham Sr High	3.9	4.3	3.0	1,474	39	2.6		
	Waltham Vocational High	19.3	10.8	10.5	164	15	9.1		
	Total	5.4	4.9	3.8	1,638	54	3.3	20	14
Ware	Ware High	6.2	4.3	2.6	309	18	5.8	23	10
Wareham	Wareham Sr High	4.2	4.9	2.7	639	10	1.5	16	10
Watertown	Watertown High	4.4	1.6	2.5	732	12	1.6	17	10
Wayland	Wayland High	0.7	1.2	0.0	589	1	0.1	2	0
Webster	Bartlett Jr/Sr High	2.3	2.6	4.2	498	12	2.4	8	16
Wellesley	Wellesley Sr High	0.9	0.1	0.2	792	2	0.2	3	1
Westborough	Westborough High	0.6	0.6	1.4	569	3	0.5	2	5
West Boylston	West Boylston Jr/Sr High	0.3	0.8	1.4	207	2	0.9	2	2
West Bridgewater	West Bridgewater Jr/Sr	2.6	2.1	1.9	292	2	0.6	2	3
Westfield	Westfield High	3.1	3.3	3.2	1,355	73	5.3	11	8
	Westfield Alternative	12.9	39.2	31.0	19	4	21.0		
	Westfield Voc High	11.4	5.9	10.0	233	15	6.4		
	Total	4.5	4.2	4.8	1,607	92	5.7	17	16
Westford	Westford Academy	2.4	0.5	1.0	846	8	0.9	9	4
Weston	Weston High	0.5	0.8	0.4	441	2	0.4	2	2
Westport	Westport High	4.6	4.4	2.9	446	11	2.4	18	11
West Springfield	West Springfield High	--	5.1	4.6	1,016	44	4.3	--	18
Westwood	Westwood High	0.8	1.0	0.3	508	1	0.2	4	1
Weymouth	East Jr High	--	--	--	245	0	0.0		
	South Jr High	--	--	--	194	1	0.5		
	Weymouth High/Voc Tech	2.1	3.8	2.6	1,534	46	3.0		

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Annual and Projected 4-Year Dropout Rates by School and District

District		School	Annual Rates				Projected 4-Year Rates *				
			1988 Rate (%)	1989 Rate (%)	1990 Rate (%)	1991		Class of 1991 Rate (%)	Class of 1992 Rate (%)	Class of 1993 Rate (%)	Class of 1994 Rate (%)
						10/1/90 Enroll.	No. Dropouts				
Wilmington	Weymouth South High	2.8	2.0	2.5	--	--	--	12	12	10	9
	Weymouth Altern Sr High	--	33.3	--	--	--	--	9	5	5	3
	Weymouth Voc Tech High	7.4	2.6	2.1	--	--	--	18	26	13	18
	Total	3.2	3.1	2.5	1,973	47	2.4	12	12	10	9
	Wilmington High	2.4	1.2	1.4	686	5	0.7	9	5	5	3
	Murdock High	4.7	7.3	3.5	258	13	5.0	18	26	13	18
	Winchester High	2.2	1.1	0.3	808	6	0.7	8	4	1	3
	Winthrop Sr High	1.3	0.9	1.3	578	4	0.6	5	3	5	3
	John F Kennedy Jr High	0.6	--	--	--	--	--				
	Daniel L Joyce Jr High	0.0	--	--	--	--	--				
Worcester	Woburn High	2.4	2.9	2.7	1,160	18	1.5	8	11	11	6
	Total	2.0	3.0	2.8	1,160	18	1.6				
	Burncoat Senior High	9.1	14.8	10.8	1,067	68	6.3				
	Doherty Memorial High	6.5	7.9	6.1	1,268	77	6.0				
	North High	15.4	13.2	15.9	860	113	13.1				
	South High Community	15.8	15.8	8.6	1,116	121	10.8				
	Total	11.6	12.8	9.9	4,311	379	8.8	39	42	34	31
	Smith Voc & Agr High	3.5	3.7	2.7	497	11	2.2	14	14	10	9
	Worcester Voc High	3.5	2.9	2.4	566	0	0.0				
	David Hale Fanning Trade	5.3	6.9	4.1	428	0	0.0				
Northampton-Smith	Total	4.3	4.6	3.1	994	0	0.0	16	18	12	0
	Acton-Boxborough Reg High	1.0	0.8	0.7	1,068	5	0.4	4	3	3	2
	Hoosac Valley High	1.8	3.3	2.8	464	12	2.5	7	13	11	10
	Amherst Reg Jr High	0.3	0.0	0.0	250	0	0.0				
	Amherst Reg High	3.8	2.9	2.7	754	27	3.5				
	Total	3.1	2.3	2.1	1,004	27	2.7	11	9	8	10

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Annual and Projected 4-Year Dropout Rates by School and District

District		Annual Rates					Projected 4-Year Rates *				
		1988 Rate (%)	1989 Rate (%)	1990 Rate (%)	1991		Class of 1991 Rate (%)	Class of 1992 Rate (%)	Class of 1993 Rate (%)	Class of 1994 Rate (%)	
					Enroll. 10/1/90	No. Dropouts					Rate (%)
Ashburnham-Westminster	Oakmont Reg High	1.9	3.0	2.6	592	11	1.8	8	12	10	7
Athol-Royalston	Athol High	7.3	4.6	6.5	524	27	5.1	26	17	24	18
Berkshire Hills	Monument Mt Reg High	4.3	2.2	4.0	526	22	4.1	16	8	15	16
Berlin-Boylston	Tahanto Reg High	0.4	0.9	2.1	169	2	1.1	2	4	9	4
Blackstone-Millville	Blackstone Millville Reg	5.0	5.5	4.7	395	24	6.0	18	21	18	22
Bridgewater-Raynham	Bridgewater-Raynham Reg	4.1	4.4	2.5	1,315	38	2.8	16	17	10	11
Central Berkshire	Wahconah Reg High	3.3	2.8	3.3	646	13	2.0	13	11	13	8
Concord-Carlisle	Concord-Carlisle High	1.7	1.5	0.7	857	5	0.5	6	6	3	2
Dennis-Yarmouth	Dennis-Yarmouth Reg High	6.0	6.2	6.2	1,034	53	5.1	22	23	23	19
Dighton-Rehoboth	Dighton-Rehoboth Reg High	3.5	3.3	4.0	743	15	2.0	13	13	15	8
Dover-Sherborn	Dover-Sherborn Reg High	0.6	0.2	0.2	397	0	0.0	2	1	1	0
Dudley-Charlton Reg	Shepherd Hill Reg High	3.0	5.2	4.6	690	21	3.0	12	20	18	11
Nauset	Nauset Reg High	3.0	1.4	1.8	666	21	3.1	12	6	7	12
Freetown-Lakeville	Apponequet Reg High	4.9	4.4	3.0	766	19	2.4	19	17	11	10
Frontier	Frontier Reg	1.5	1.2	1.8	333	2	0.6	7	5	7	2
Gateway	Gateway Reg High	6.3	3.9	5.1	346	17	4.9	23	14	19	18
Groton-Dunstable	Groton-Dunstable Reg	0.4	0.7	1.6	338	4	1.1	2	3	6	5
Gill-Montague	Turners Fall High	7.1	6.1	4.1	407	24	5.9	26	22	15	22
Hamilton-Wenham	Hamilton-Wenham Reg High	0.4	1.5	1.2	617	5	0.8	1	6	5	3
Hampden-Wilbraham	Minnechaug Reg High	3.0	1.4	0.9	838	7	0.8	11	5	4	3
Hampshire	Hampshire Reg High	1.3	1.9	1.4	379	7	1.8	5	7	5	7
King Philip	King Philip Reg High	2.2	1.5	2.4	822	13	1.5				
	King Philip Reg Voc Tech	6.4	4.0	3.1	--	--	--				
	Total	3.3	2.2	2.6	822	13	1.6	12	9	10	6
Lincoln-Sudbury	Lincoln-Sudbury Reg High	0.0	0.4	0.8	931	0	0.0	0	2	3	0
Marthas Vineyard	Marthas Vineyard Reg High	4.0	1.5	3.3	467	14	3.0	15	6	13	11

* projected four-year rates provided by district only; -- indicates a school was not in operation or did not report data in a particular year

Annual and Projected 4-Year Dropout Rates by School and District

		Annual Rates				Projected 4-Year Rates *				
District	School	1988	1989	1990	1991		Class of 1991 Rate (%)	Class of 1992 Rate (%)	Class of 1993 Rate (%)	Class of 1994 Rate (%)
		Rate (%)	Rate (%)	Rate (%)	No. Dropouts	Rate (%)				
Masconomet	Masconomet Reg Jr/Sr High	2.2	2.0	1.2	699	6	8	7	5	3
Mendon-Upton	Nipmuc Reg High	0.9	0.6	0.0	286	1	4	3	0	1
Mount Greylock	Mt Greylock Reg High	1.6	2.5	2.9	463	3	6	10	11	2
Mohawk Trail	Mohawk Trail Reg High	5.6	4.5	2.7	429	17	21	17	11	15
Narragansett	Narragansett Reg High	3.2	2.5	3.6	377	11	12	9	14	11
Nashoba	Nashoba Reg High	1.7	1.4	2.6	603	6	6	5	9	4
Northboro-Southboro	Algonquin Reg High	3.8	1.8	2.2	854	6	14	7	9	2
North Middlesex	North Middlesex Reg High	3.3	4.0	1.5	1,070	14	13	15	6	5
Old Rochester	Old Rochester Reg High	1.8	2.1	1.1	538	2	7	8	4	1
Pentucket	Pentucket Reg Jr High	1.7	0.0	0.0	145	0				
	Pentucket Reg Sr High	2.4	2.0	1.6	426	3				
	Total	2.3	1.5	1.2	571	3	9	6	5	2
Pioneer Valley	Pioneer Valley Reg	4.4	1.4	1.8	219	2	16	6	8	4
Plymouth-Carver	Plymouth-Carver Intermediate	3.9	--	--	--	--				
	Plymouth-North High	5.4	4.5	5.2	861	38				
	Carver High	0.0	0.7	4.8	420	11				
	Plymouth South High	--	3.4	8.3	725	6				
	Plymouth South Technical	--	--	8.2	402	13				
	Total	4.2	3.3	6.7	2,408	68	18	13	24	11
Quabbin	Quabbin Reg Jr/Sr	4.2	2.6	3.1	516	18	16	10	12	13
Ralph C Mahar	Ralph C Mahar Reg	6.3	6.5	7.3	440	18	23	24	27	15
Silver Lake	Silver Lake Reg Kingston	4.0	3.2	1.4	1,586	52	15	12	6	12
Southern Berkshire	Mt Everett Reg	2.9	3.7	4.1	227	8	11	14	16	13
Southwick-Tolland	Southwick High	8.6	3.4	3.5	416	12	31	14	14	11
Spencer E Brookfield	David Prouty High	5.2	3.9	3.2	551	16	19	15	12	11

* projected four-year rates provided by district only; -- indicates a school was not in operation or did not report data in a particular year

Annual and Projected 4-Year Dropout Rates by School and District

District	School	Annual Rates				Projected 4-Year Rates *			
		1988	1989	1990	1991 No. Dropouts	Class of 1991 Rate (%)	Class of 1992 Rate (%)	Class of 1993 Rate (%)	Class of 1994 Rate (%)
		Rate (%)	Rate (%)	Rate (%)					
Tantasqua	Tantasqua Reg Jr High	5.3	5.7	3.6	176	4	2.2		
	Tantasqua Reg Sr High	5.9	6.4	3.4	522	10	1.9		
	Tantasqua Reg Voc	12.3	8.6	3.6	147	5	3.4		
	Total	6.8	6.7	3.5	845	19	2.2		
Triton	Triton Reg High	3.7	3.2	3.5	659	14	2.1		
Wachusett	Wachusett Reg High	3.1	2.6	1.7	1,530	17	1.1		
Quaboag Regional	Quaboag Reg High	4.8	3.5	5.7	315	4	1.2		
Whitman-Hanson	Whitman Hanson Reg	2.8	3.0	2.3	982	16	1.6		
Assabet Valley	Assabet Valley Voc High	0.2	0.0	3.0	853	31	3.6		
Blackstone Valley Reg	Blackstone Valley	3.7	3.7	5.5	682	24	3.5		
Blue Hills Voc	Blue Hills Reg Voc Tech	--	6.0	4.8	816	21	2.5		
Bristol-Plymouth Voc Tech	Bristol-Plymouth Voc Tech	0.6	0.6	0.5	763	2	0.2		
Cape Cod Reg Voc Tech	Cape Cod Reg Voc Tech	10.0	10.7	11.3	493	36	7.3		
Franklin County	Franklin County Tech	11.5	7.5	6.5	409	37	9.0		
Greater Fall River	Diman Reg Voc Tech High	2.4	1.1	1.9	1,119	18	1.6		
Greater Lawrence	Gr Lawrence Reg Voc Tech	7.7	6.0	4.9	1,525	78	5.1		
Greater New Bedford	Gr New Bedford Voc Tech	6.0	4.4	2.1	1,679	15	0.8		
Greater Lowell Voc Tec	Gr Lowell Reg Voc Tech	3.9	7.2	7.0	2,047	75	3.6		
S Middlesex Voc Tech Reg	Joseph P Keefe Tech High	7.8	9.5	6.8	725	33	4.5		
Minute Man Voc Tech	Minute Man Voc Tech High	0.0	4.2	0.0	615	0	0.0		
Montachusett Voc Tech	Montachusett Voc Tech	9.1	9.4	7.1	1,056	61	5.7		
Northern Berkshire Voc	Charles McCann Voc Tech	1.2	1.4	0.7	373	6	1.6		
Nashoba Valley Tech	Nashoba Valley Tech High	4.2	3.6	4.1	488	22	4.5		
Northeast Metro Voc	Northeast Metro Reg Voc	0.0	1.1	0.1	1,168	21	1.8		
North Shore Reg Voc	North Shore Reg Voc	14.4	9.4	15.4	372	64	17.2		
Old Colony Voc Tech	Old Colony Reg Voc Tech	3.3	3.3	0.7	503	10	1.9		
								24	9
								13	8
								12	4
								10	5
								15	6
								11	6
								0	14
								14	14
								--	10
								3	1
								35	26
								39	31
								9	6
								29	19
								22	3
								15	13
								28	18
								0	0
								32	23
								5	6
								16	17
								0	7
								46	55
								12	8

* projected four-year rates provided by district only; -- indicates a school was not in operation or did not report data in a particular year

Annual and Projected 4-Year Dropout Rates by School and District

District	School	Annual Rates				Projected 4-Year Rates *			
		1988	1989	1990	1991	Class of 1991 Rate (%)	Class of 1992 Rate (%)	Class of 1993 Rate (%)	Class of 1994 Rate (%)
		Rate (%)	Rate (%)	Rate (%)	10/1/90 Enroll. Dropouts				
Pathfinder Voc Tech	Pathfinder Voc Tech	4.4	5.9	2.8	513	30	23	11	21
Shawsheen Valley Voc Tech	Shawsheen Valley Voc Tech	8.1	3.1	2.8	1,067	34	12	11	12
Southeastern Reg Voc Tech	Southeastern Reg Voc Tech	2.7	2.2	1.8	1,211	28	9	7	9
South Shore Reg Voc Tech	So Shore Voc Tech High	1.4	4.9	1.5	409	11	19	6	10
S Worcester County Voc	Bay Path Reg Voc Tech HS	4.0	7.2	3.4	925	31	26	13	12
Tri County	Tri County Reg Voc Tech	4.2	3.1	2.2	719	2	12	9	1
Upper Cape Cod Voc Tech	Upper Cape Cod Voc Tech	7.3	3.0	6.4	431	11	11	24	10
Whittier Voc	Whittier Reg Voc	8.1	6.3	5.6	973	71	23	21	26
Bristol County Agr	Bristol County Agr High	6.3	4.6	2.8	260	18	16	11	25
Essex Agr Tech	Essex Agr & Tech Inst	3.4	1.6	1.8	251	3	7	8	6
Norfolk County Agr	Norfolk County Agr	1.3	1.1	0.0	318	5	5	0	6

* projected four-year rates provided by district only; -- indicates a school was not in operation or did not report data in a particular year

Appendix A: School Districts by Kind of Community (KOC)

<u>Urban Centers</u>	<u>Economically Developed Suburbs</u>	<u>Economically Developed Suburbs</u>	<u>Residential Suburbs</u>	<u>Rural Economic Centers</u>	<u>Small Economic Communities</u>
Attleboro	Auburn	Shawsheen Valley Voc	Berlin	Clarksburg	Rutland
Ayer	Avon	Tri County	Bolton	Deerfield	Savoy
Boston	Bedford	Essex Agr Tech	Boxborough	Easthampton	Southampton
Brockton	Belmont	Norfolk County Agr	Boxford	Erving	Sutton
Cambridge	Beverly		Boylston	Hatfield	Wales
Chelsea	Billerica	<u>Growth Communities</u>	Carlisle	Hopedale	West Newbury
Chicopee	Braintree	Agawam	Cohasset	Hull	Chesterfield-Goshen
Clinton	Brookline	Amherst	Dover	Lee	Dighton-Rehoboth
Everett	Burlington	Barnstable	Duxbury	Leicester	Farmington River Reg
Fairhaven	Canton	Belchertown	Easton	Merrimac	Gateway
Fall River	Chelmsford	Bellingham	Georgetown	Middleborough	Hampshire
Fitchburg	Concord	Bourne	Groveland	Millbury	Hawlemont
Gardner	Danvers	Bridgewater	Hampden	Monson	North Middlesex
Gloucester	Dedham	Carver	Hanover	Newburyport	
Greenfield	East Longmeadow	Dartmouth	Hingham	North Attleborough	<u>Resort/Retirement</u>
Haverhill	Foxborough	Dracut	Holden	Northbridge	<u>Artistic</u>
Holyoke	Framingham	East Bridgewater	Holliston	North Brookfield	Brewster
Lawrence	Franklin	Falmouth	Hopkinton	Orange	Chatham
Leominster	Grafton	Freetown	Lincoln	Oxford	Chilmark
Lowell	Holbrook	Granby	Longmeadow	Palmer	Conway
Lynn	Hudson	Hanson	Lynnfield	Rockland	Eastham
Malden	Lexington	Harvard	Manchester	Shirley	Edgartown
Maynard	Littleton	Harwich	Marshfield	Uxbridge	Essex
Medford	Marblehead	Kingston	Medfield	Ware	Gosnold
Methuen	Marlborough	Lancaster	Medway	West Bridgewater	Hadley
Millford	Melrose	Lenox	Millis	Whitman	Ipswich
New Bedford	Middleton	Ludlow	Norfolk	Williamsburg	Leverett
North Adams	Milton	Lunenburg	North Reading	Winchendon	Nahant
Northampton	Natick	Mansfield	Norwell	Winthrop	Nantucket
Pittsfield	Needham	Marion	Paxton	Wrentham	Oak Bluffs
Provincetown	Newton	Mashpee	Pelham	Adams-Cheshire	Orleans
Quincy	North Andover	Mattapoisett	Princeton	Athol-Royalston	Rockport
Revere	Northborough	Norton	Richmond	Blackstone-Millville	Rowe
Salem	Norwood	Pembroke	Sandwich	Buckland-Colrain-Shelburn	Shutesbury
Somerville	Peabody	Plainville	Scituate	Central Berkshire	Tisbury
Southbridge	Randolph	Plymouth	Sharon	Dudley-Charlton Reg	Truro
Springfield	Reading	Plympton	Sherborn	Frontier	Wellfleet
Taunton	Saugus	Raynham	Southborough	Gill-Montague	West Tisbury
Waltham	Shrewsbury	Rochester	Sterling	Mohawk Trail	Whately
Watertown	Somerset	Rowley	Stow	Narragansett	Williamstown
Webster	South Hadley	Salisbury	Sudbury	Pioneer Valley	Ashfield-Plainfield Reg
Westfield	Stoneham	Seekonk	Topsfield	Quabbin	Nauset
West Springfield	Stoughton	Sturbridge	Wayland	Ralph C Mahar	Marthas Vineyard
Worcester	Swampscott	Sunderland	Westford	Spencer E Brookfield	Mount Greylock
Lawrence Vocational	Tewksbury	Swansea	Westhampton	Quaboag Regional	Southern Berkshire
Northampton-Smith	Wakefield	Tyngsborough	Weston	Whitman-Hanson	
Worcester Trade Compl	Walpole	Wareham	Wilbraham	Blackstone Valley Reg	
Berkshire Hills	Wellesley	Westport	Berlin-Boylston	Franklin County	
Bristol-Plymouth Voc	Westborough	Amherst-Pelham	Dover-Sherborn	Pathfinder Voc-Tech	
Greater Fall River	West Boylston	Ashburnham-Westminster	Groton-Dunstable	South Shore Reg Voc Tech	
Greater Lawrence	Westwood	Bridgewater-Raynham	Hamilton-Wenham		
Greater New Bedford	Weymouth	Dennis-Yarmouth	Hampden-Wilbraham	<u>Small Economic Communities</u>	
Greater Lowell Voc Tech	Wilmington	Freetown-Lakeville	King Philip	Berkley	
Montachusett Voc Tech	Winchester	New Salem-Wendell	Lincoln-Sudbury	Brimfield	
Northern Berkshire Voc	Woburn	Old Rochester	Masconomet	Douglas	
Southeastern Reg Voc	Acton-Boxborough	Plymouth-Carver	Mendon-Upton	Florida	
S Worcester County Voc	Concord-Carlisle	Silver Lake	Nashoba	Granville	
Whittier Voc	Northboro-Southboro	Southwick-Tolland	Pentucket	Halifax	
Bristol County Agr	Assabet Valley	Tantasqua	Wachusett	Hancock	
	Blue Hills Voc	Triton		Holland	
<u>Economically Developed Suburbs</u>	S Middlesex Voc Tech	Cape Cod Reg Voc Tech	<u>Rural Economic Centers</u>	Lakeville	
Acton	Minute Man Voc Tech	Old Colony Voc Tech	Abington	Lanesborough	
Andover	Nashoba Valley Tech	Upper Cape Cod Voc	Acushnet	Newbury	
Arlington	Northeast Metro Voc		Amesbury	Petersham	
Ashland	North Shore Reg Voc		Brookfield		

Appendix B: School Districts by Service Delivery Area (SDA)

<u>Berkshire</u>	<u>Franklin-Hampshire</u>	<u>Metro North</u>	<u>New Bedford</u>	<u>Northern Worcester</u>	<u>Southern Worcester</u>
Clarksburg	Leverett	Somerville	Acushnet	Narragansett	Milford
Florida	Northampton	Stoneham	Dartmouth	Nashoba	Millbury
Hancock	Orange	Wakefield	Fairhaven	North Middlesex	Northborough
Lanesborough	Pelham	Watertown	Freetown	Quabbin	Northbridge
Lee	Petersham	Wilmington	Lakeville	Montachusett Voc	North Brookfield
Lenox	Rowe	Winchester	Marion	Nashoba Valley Tech	Oxford
North Adams	Shutesbury	Winthrop	Mattapoisett		Paxton
Pittsfield	Southampton	Woburn	New Bedford	<u>Southern Coastal</u>	Rutland
Richmond	South Hadley	Northeast Metro Voc	Rochester	Braintree	Shrewsbury
Savoy	Sunderland		Wareham	Carver	Southbridge
Williamstown	Ware	<u>Metro Southwest</u>	Freetown-Lakeville	Cohasset	Sturbridge
Adams-Cheshire	Westhampton	Acton	Old Rochester	Duxbury	Sutton
Berkshire Hills	Whately	Ashland	Cape Cod Reg Voc Tech	Halifax	Uxbridge
Central Berkshire	Williamsburg	Bedford	Greater New Bedford	Hanover	Webster
Farmington River	Northampton-Smith	Bellingham	Old Colony Voc Tech	Hingham	Westborough
Mount Graylock	Amherst-Pelham	Boxborough		Holbrook	West Boylston
Southern Berkshire	Ashfield-Plainfield	Brookline	<u>Lower Merrimack</u>	Hull	Worcester
Northern Berkshire Voc	Athol-Royalston	Canton	Amesbury	Kingston	Worcester Trade Compl
	Buckland-Colrain-Shelburn	Carlisle	Andover	Marshfield	Berlin-Boylston
<u>Boston</u>	Chesterfield-Goshen	Concord	Boxford	Middleborough	Blackstone-Millville
Boston	Frontier	Dedham	Georgetown	Milton	Dudley-Charlton
	Gill-Montague	Dover	Groveland	Norwell	Mendon-Upton
<u>Bristol</u>	Hampshire	Foxborough	Haverhill	Pembroke	Northboro-Southboro
Attleboro	Hawlemont	Framingham	Lawrence	Plymouth	Spencer-E Brookfield
Berkley	Mohawk Trail	Franklin	Merrimac	Plympton	Tantasqua
Fall River	New Salem-Wendell	Holliston	Methuen	Quincy	Wachusett
Mansfield	Pioneer Valley	Hopkinton	Newbury	Randolph	Quaboag Regional
North Attleborough	Ralph C Mahar	Hudson	Newburyport	Rockland	Blackstone Valley Reg
Norton	Franklin County	Lexington	North Andover	Scituate	S Worcester County Voc
Raynham		Lincoln	Rowley	Weymouth	
Seekonk	<u>Hampden</u>	Littleton	Salisbury	Plymouth-Carver	<u>Cape & Islands</u>
Somerset	Agawam	Marlborough	West Newbury	Silver Lake	Barnstable
Swansea	Brimfield	Maynard	Lawrence Vocational	South Shore Reg Voc	Bourne
Taunton	Chicopee	Medfield	Pentucket		Brewster
Westport	East Longmeadow	Medway	Triton	<u>Southern Essex</u>	Chatham
Dighton-Rehoboth	Granville	Millis	Greater Lawrence	Beverly	Chilmark
Bristol-Plymouth Voc	Hampden	Natick	Whittier Voc	Danvers	Eastham
Greater Fall River	Holland	Needham		Essex	Edgartown
Bristol County Agr	Holyoke	Newton	<u>Northern Middlesex</u>	Gloucester	Falmouth
	Longmeadow	Norfolk	Billerica	Ipswich	Gosnold
<u>Brockton</u>	Ludlow	Norwood	Chelmsford	Lynn	Harwich
Abington	Monson	Plainville	Dracut	Lynnfield	Mashpee
Avon	Palmer	Sharon	Lowell	Manchester	Nantucket
Bridgewater	Springfield	Sherborn	Tewksbury	Marblehead	Oak Bluffs
Brockton	Wales	Southborough	Tyngsborough	Middleton	Orleans
East Bridgewater	Westfield	Stow	Westford	Nahant	Provincetown
Easton	West Springfield	Sudbury	Greater Lowell Voc Tech	Peabody	Sandwich
Hanson	Wilbraham	Walpole	Shawsheen Valley Voc	Rockport	Tisbury
Stoughton	Gateway	Waltham		Salem	Truro
West Bridgewater	Hampden-Wilbraham	Wayland	<u>Northern Worcester</u>	Saugus	Wellfleet
Whitman	Southwick-Tolland	Wellesley	Ayer	Swampscott	West Tisbury
Bridgewater-Raynham	Pathfinder Voc Tech	Weston	Berlin	Topsfield	Dennis-Yarmouth
Whitman-Hanson		Westwood	Bolton	Hamilton-Wenham	Nauset
Southeastern Reg Voc	<u>Metro North</u>	Wrentham	Clinton	Masconomet	Marthas Vineyard
	Arlington	Acton-Boxborough	Fitchburg	North Shore Reg Voc	Upper Cape Cod Voc
<u>Franklin-Hampshire</u>	Belmont	Concord-Carlisle	Gardner	Essex Agr Tech	
Amherst	Burlington	Dover-Sherborn	Harvard		<u>Southern Worcester</u>
Belchertown	Cambridge	King Philip	Lancaster	Auburn	
Conway	Chelsea	Lincoln-Sudbury	Leominster	Boylston	
Deerfield	Everett	Assabet Valley	Lunenburg	Brookfield	
Easthampton	Malden	Blue Hills Voc	Princeton	Douglas	
Erving	Medford	S Middlesex Voc	Shirley	Grafton	
Granby	Melrose	Minute Man Voc	Sterling	Holden	
Greenfield	North Reading	Tri County	Winchendon	Hopedale	
Hadley	Reading	Norfolk County Agr	Ashburnham-Westminster	Leicester	
Hatfield	Revere		Groton-Dunstable		

